



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE
NAGOYA PROTOCOL**

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to Montreal for this inaugural meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The convening of this meeting is a very exciting development in the history of access and benefit-sharing, and I look forward to the work to be undertaken by the Committee in contributing to the effective implementation of the Protocol.

As you know, the Nagoya Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014. It is an innovative international agreement aimed at establishing predictable conditions for access to genetic resources and to ensure benefit-sharing. A total of 73 countries have now ratified this landmark treaty, and we hope to achieve 100 ratifications before the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP), being held in Cancun, Mexico, in December of this year.

Distinguished participants,

As you know, one of the major achievements of the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in Pyeongchang in 2014, was the adoption of the compliance procedures and mechanisms and the establishment of the Compliance Committee. The decision adopted in Pyeongchang is all the more significant as it recognizes the role of indigenous and local communities in the Protocol, and we are very pleased that the Committee includes two indigenous and local community observers who have been elected by the COP-MOP.

A number of you participated in the compliance negotiations in Pyeongchang and contributed to this success. Now, we must turn towards implementing the mandate the Committee has been given. The work of the Committee over the next three days is to develop its rules of procedure and to consider the need for support to address challenges related to compliance and the modalities of that support. You are also invited to consider the work the Committee could undertake in the biennium 2017-2018. The report of your meeting, including your recommendations, will be submitted to the COP-MOP for consideration at its second meeting.

Compliance mechanisms under multilateral environmental agreements are a common feature, devised as a tool to help Parties implement and fulfil their obligations under these agreements. As more countries ratify the Protocol, we need to have a clear path towards effective implementation for all countries. The information we have compiled to report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its first meeting on the progress towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 shows that a great deal of work is under way to implement the Protocol but a great deal also remains to be done.

With this in mind, I am very confident that, with the broad expertise assembled at this meeting, you will fulfil your mandate. Thank you once again for your demonstrated commitment and continued support for the work of the Protocol.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.
