



**STATEMENT BY  
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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

on the occasion of the

71st Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly  
Second Committee

*Agenda item 19 (f)*

*SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Convention on Biological Diversity*

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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## **Thank you Ambassador DIAN TRIANSYAH DJANI**

I am honoured to address the second committee of the UN General Assembly under your chairmanship.

Mr Chairman,

2. It is a pleasure for me to introduce the report of the Secretary-General to the 71th session of the General Assembly on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This report is being presented in accordance with resolution 70/207. The report covers in some detail the preparations for the thirteenth session of the Conference of Parties and the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols of the Convention, which are scheduled to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016. To prepare for COP 13, a number of meetings, particularly the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, have taken place.

3. The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation was held in Montreal, Canada, from 2 to 6 May 2016. The SBI was established at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to replace the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Review Implementation of the Convention, with a mandate to undertake four major functions: review progress in implementation; identify strategic actions to enhance implementation; strengthen support for implementation; and improve the efficiency of structures and processes in the operations of the Convention and its Protocols. SBI's mandate also covers the two Protocols to the Convention, that is, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya Protocol) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Cartagena Protocol). Among Its outcomes were recommendations on a range of measures that could be undertaken by parties to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, guidelines for the next cycle of national reporting as also recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness of the Conventions Protocols.

4. Two meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice have also been convened in Montreal, Canada, the first from 2 to 5 November 2015 and the second from 25 to 30 April 2016. The two meetings prepared recommendations on a range of issues, which will be forwarded to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration. These recommendations inter alia covered issues such as identification of measures for the further implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, marine biodiversity, restoration of natural and semi-natural ecosystems, as a contribution to halting biodiversity loss, improving ecosystem resilience, enhancing the provision of ecosystem services, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and improving human well-being, while reducing environmental risks and scarcities and the links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. SBSTTA also made recommendations on mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism – a theme which will be a major priority for COP 13.

5. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) has also met in November last year to review its programme of work and assess progress on the development of guidelines on mechanisms for obtaining prior informed consent of indigenous peoples and local

communities for access to their knowledge, innovations and practices, for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such knowledge and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge. The Working Group also recommended best practice guidelines for the repatriation of indigenous and traditional knowledge, in order to encourage cultural restoration and the restoration of knowledge systems, which will be considered at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. As at the time of the preparation of the report you have before you, 16 June 2016, the Nagoya Protocol had received 78 instruments of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance. Following the entry into force of the Protocol in October 2014, the focus of efforts has shifted to operationalization and implementation of the Protocol. To prepare for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, which will take place concurrently with COP 13, a number of intersessional meetings and activities have been convened: the first meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol; an expert group meeting on article 10 of the Protocol; and meetings of the informal advisory committees on capacity-building and the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House. The outcomes of this work will be made available for the consideration of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

7. As of 16 June 2016, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety had received 170 instruments of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance. To prepare for the eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, a number of meetings and activities have been organized.

8. The report before you has more detailed information on other programs and initiatives undertaken under the Convention and its protocols over the past year, as also information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Before I conclude, I would like to highlight the importance that we attach to effective follow up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to flag that the priority themes for COP 13 will include integrating and mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors and better integration of the Convention and its Protocols as also other relevant instruments.

**Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates**

I thank you for your attention.