



OPENING STATEMENT BY

BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

to the

2016 UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

**Occasion of the report by the President on the outcome of the
high-level segment and the address by the President of Mexico**

*Thirteenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the
Cartagena Protocol
Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the
Nagoya Protocol*

**Cancun, Mexico
5 December 2016**



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



Excellency, Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico,
Mr. Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Secretary of the Environment of Mexico and President of the
thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,
Ms. Claudia Ruiz Massieu, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Carlos Joaquin Gonzalez, Governor of the State of Quintana Roo
Distinguished members of the Preasedium
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to have this opportunity to address you on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency Enrique Pena Nieto, President of Mexico at this United Nations Biodiversity Conference, in Cancun, Mexico, 2016.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to Mexico for the tremendous efforts they have undertaken in planning and hosting this Conference. I also thank the Province of Quintana Roo and the City of Cancun for the warm hospitality we have received.

Mexico has also demonstrated exceptional leadership on advancing the biodiversity agenda, both domestically and internationally.

I am deeply impressed with Mexico's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2030 — the ENBioMex — which was recently completed and launched yesterday here in Cancun. It is the result of a broad participatory planning process, involving different sectors and stakeholders.

By establishing guiding principles for stakeholders involved in implementation, and monitoring their performance against benchmarks, the ENBioMex enables the tracking of implementation progress. Each of the 160 actions aims to contribute to the ENBioMex's six strategic axes. The Strategy recognizes that Mexican biodiversity is also linked to its cultural diversity and, as such, also recognizes the important contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of the country's natural heritage.

Both the preparation process and the implementation plan of the ENBioMex are testimony to the fact that biodiversity objectives cannot be achieved unless they are fully understood by society and mainstreamed within and across sectors. Accordingly, the Strategy not only assigns responsibility to partners beyond the biodiversity community, but also promotes an enabling environment for actions that conserve and sustainably use natural resources.

Mexico is counted among the countries with the richest biodiversity; therefore, any efforts to increase the coverage of protected areas make a particularly significant contribution to global biodiversity conservation. In this regard, Mexico's commitment to achieve the quantitative and qualitative elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on protected areas before 2020 is commendable. I understand the His Excellency the President will announce major increases in the protection of marine areas. This is combined with existing marine no-take zones that are managed and monitored by fishing communities. This will not only have a tremendous impact in this country, which possesses the second highest level of diversity in marine fishes in

the world, but also make a significant contribution to the global target and therefore provide much needed momentum to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Mexico has also recognized that biodiversity needs to be better mainstreamed in international and intergovernmental processes, and has been very active in this regard.

I do sincerely hope that our discussions here will help all of us to find avenues for advancing the mainstreaming of biodiversity. As Minister Pacchiano reported in the high-level segment, there is a wealth of experiences and approaches from which we can learn a great deal. The presence of a good number of ministers responsible for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism has opened doors to pursue dialogues and move forward in a coherent and mutually supportive manner. The Cancun Declaration adopted on Saturday is evidence of the desire for greater coherence in the way we manage our natural resources.

I count on the strong support of Mexico, during its two-year Presidency of the Convention, to lead the world in enhancing the implementation of our commitments on biodiversity and sustainable development.

Thank you very much for your attention.
