



**STATEMENT BY
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on the occasion of the meeting of the

Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species

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Good morning,

I would like to start by acknowledging the presence of the Mohawk, Algonquin, Huron-Wendat and Abenaki (Ah'-ben'ack'-ee) Nations in the territory of the City of Montreal, where we find ourselves today.

It is my pleasure to be here with you at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to open the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species.

As you know, earlier this year, we received some good news. Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and in particular its element 9.1 on prioritization of invasive alien species has, according to the IPBES *Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, made good progress. Accordingly, I would like to thank Parties for their continuing efforts in addressing invasive alien species, one of the major direct drivers of biodiversity loss.

However, we still face additional pressures associated with anthropogenic impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. For example, the global trade of living organisms is constantly expanding. E-commerce is adding more pressure on the environment by increasing domestic and international trade among users not necessarily familiar with the risk and risk regulatory mechanism. Climate change is also increasingly affecting the distribution of invasive alien species.

And while the international community has been working to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees, there is no sign that emissions over the next few years will in fact decrease due to global actions being taken now. Such impacts on biodiversity are unprecedented in human history. It is incumbent on us to address them with all our knowledge and wisdom in order to prevent the further spread of invasive alien species.

Last week saw the conclusion of the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The ongoing discussions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework highlighted the importance of taking evidence-based approaches towards setting goals, targets and indicators.

Parties to the Convention have made it known that more attention needs to be given to invasive alien species, and the global community must provide concrete means to address this direct driver of biodiversity loss, together with the interlinked issues of socio-economic and cultural values in our society.



Today we have global experts on invasive alien species from Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity gathered in one room, together with representatives of international organizations that set regulatory standards, such as the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Customs Organization and various scientific Partners of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

You represent the best of the best to address the complex issue of invasive alien species. I strongly believe that this Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will successfully craft out practical advice that will allow Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 by a variety of sectors.

Thank you and I wish you fruitful discussions.
