



**STATEMENT BY**

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**TO**

**THE FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF**

**THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

**WASHINGTON D.C., U.S.A.**

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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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Madam Naoko,  
Distinguished Council members,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address this important meeting of the Council of the Global Environment Facility, and provide updates on the recent development under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols. Since my statement to your 48<sup>th</sup> meeting, four major intergovernmental meetings have been organized under the auspices of the Convention, including the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, nineteenth and twelfth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Taken together, the Convention is well under way toward the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Cancun, Mexico in December this year.

Many of the outcomes from the inter-sessional intergovernmental meetings are related to the operation of the financial mechanism, including on indigenous peoples and local communities, implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, health-biodiversity linkages, progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12, biodiversity in cold water areas, invasive alien species, biodiversity and climate change, ecosystem restoration, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and mid-term evaluation of the strategic plan for the protocol, the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.

1. The ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada, 4 - 7 November 2015

The Working Group recommended the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to adopt the voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the [free,] prior informed consent [or approval and involvement] of **indigenous peoples and local communities** for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use and application of such knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge, and invite the Global Environment Facility, international funding institutions and development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, to consider, in accordance with their mandates, providing financial and technical assistance to developing country Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women within these communities, to raise their awareness and to build their capacity relevant to the implementation of the guidelines, and to develop, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for [free,] prior informed consent and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.



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2. Nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), 2 - 5 November 2015, Montreal, Canada

SBSTTA-19 further considered the implications of the findings of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and related reports, including with respect to mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, and emphasized the need for enhanced efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular for those targets where least progress has been made, and emphasizes the need to strengthen implementation, including through technical and scientific cooperation, capacity-building support and an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity funding for the implementation of the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**.

SBSTTA-19 noted on the key technical and scientific needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and recommended to increase national, regional and global efforts related to the promotion of research programs related to the objectives of the Convention, and to increase awareness of the Global Taxonomy Initiative to implement its capacity-building strategy (decision XI/29).

SBSTTA-19 also took note of the key messages contained in the summary of Connecting Global Priorities: **Biodiversity and Human Health**, a State of Knowledge Review, and encouraged Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and funding agencies to promote and support further research on health-biodiversity linkages and related socioeconomic considerations.

3. Twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, 25 - 30 April 2016, Montreal, Canada

SBSTTA-20 reviewed the progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity **Targets 11 and 12**, and recommended that the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties invite the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area and other effective area-based conservation projects in its sixth and seventh replenishment cycles with the national actions identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and, as appropriate, through the regional workshops for the achievement of Targets 11 and 12, with a view to facilitating the systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to the implementation of the national action plans for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 and other related targets.

SBSTTA-20 recommended adopting the voluntary specific workplan on **biodiversity in cold water areas** within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention, and inviting Parties, other Governments and research and funding organizations to promote, as appropriate and within their competencies, and in accordance with national circumstances, activities to address research and monitoring needs.

SBSTTA-20 reviewed the outputs of three regional workshops to describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and discussed practical options for further enhancing scientific methodologies and approaches to describing EBSAs, including through the potential establishment of an informal advisory group.

SBSTTA-20 recommended adopting guidance on preventing and mitigating the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats. This guidance includes promoting



## United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

structural economic changes that would reduce the production and consumption of plastics, increase production of environmentally friendlier materials, increase recycling and reuse, and support an enabling environment for these changes through capacity-building, regulations and standards, and cooperation between industry, governments and consumers. The issue of marine debris, defined as any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of, lost or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment, is an increasingly important issue not only under the Convention, but also in other fora.

SBSTTA-20 recommended on addressing risk of invasive alien species associated with trade in wildlife, including trade via e-commerce and development of various guidance and tools and further to manage already established invasive alien species. Having reviewed the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity **Target 9 related to invasive alien species**, the Subsidiary Body recommended inviting Parties, other Governments, other organizations and the scientific community, to continue investing resources in the development and circulation of new knowledge on alien species and pathways, particularly through relevant existing tools, such as the Global Invasive Species Database of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Invasive Alien Species Pathways tool and the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species implemented within the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

With respect to **biodiversity and climate change**, SBSTTA-20 recalled paragraph 5 of decision IX/16, in which it encouraged Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organizations to provide financial and technical support to capacity-building activities, including through raising public awareness, so as to enable developing countries, especially least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, to implement activities related to the impacts of climate change, and of the positive and negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity.

To accelerate and upscale activities on **ecosystem restoration**, SBSTTA-20 recommended adopting the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 12, 14 and 15, and Targets 4 and 8 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and inviting Parties in a position to do so and other donors, such as international finance agencies, including the Global Environment Facility and regional development banks, to provide support for ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes integrated as appropriate into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication.

Regarding biodiversity assessment, SBSTTA-20 recommended encouraging Parties, and inviting other Governments and relevant organizations, including funding organizations, to support efforts to develop human and technical capacity for **scenario development and modelling needs** and to promote open and transparent access to scenario and modelling tools, as well as the data required for their development and testing. It also recalled decision XI/3, which recognized the need to strengthen technical and institutional capacities and to mobilize adequate financial resources for



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the development and application of indicators and monitoring systems, especially for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition.

4. First meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, 2 - 6 May 2016, Montreal, Canada

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Convention and the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi biodiversity targets, and noted with concern that Aichi Biodiversity Targets 10 and 17 were not met by the target date of 2015, as well as the limited progress made towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets 18 and 14 at the national level and in mainstreaming Article 8(j) and related provisions into various areas of work under the Convention. It recommended requesting the financial mechanism, and inviting other donors in a position to do so, to continue to provide support, based on the expressed needs of Parties, especially for developing countries and in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the development and implementation of **national biodiversity strategies and action plans**, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3. In addition Parties are *encouraged* to undertake the development and implementation of NBSAPs with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national circumstances, recognizing the contribution of the collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the role of their holistic systems for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

With the financial support from the Global Environment Facility, 180 Parties have submitted their fifth national reports to the Convention. The Subsidiary Body recommended encouraging Parties to submit their sixth national report by 31 December 2018, and requesting the Global Environment Facility to provide adequate funding for the preparation of the sixth national report in a timely and expeditious manner to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States as well as Parties with economies in transition. Given GEF's tremendous and successful experience in financing the preparation of **national reports**, I am confident that GEF Secretariat and agencies will be able to start the funding machinery for sixth national reports in the coming months.

The financial mechanism is among the major agenda items for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The Subsidiary Body took note of the preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility, and recommended that the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision regarding a four-year framework of programme priorities, report of the Global Environment Facility, assessment of needs for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and terms of reference for the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. The CBD Secretariat has been working very closely with the GEF Secretariat on all these issues, and a joint CBD-GEF retreat is planned later this month to share information and exchange perspectives.

Regarding the GEF-7 funding needs assessment, the Expert Team used a bottom-up approach to gather information. Around forty-five recipient countries have responded to the questionnaire from the Expert Team. The Subsidiary Body urged recipient Parties that have not done so to submit their response as well as updates, if any of the existing submissions by 31 August 2016. Given the crucial importance of national responses to this assessment, I would like to ask recipient Council members to review the status of responses from your constituency and make



## United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

sure that the funding needs of your constituency will be adequately presented to the Expert Team on the funding needs assessment in a timely manner.

The Subsidiary Body conducted the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** and mid-term evaluation of the strategic plan for the protocol, and recommended inviting the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so to put in place a national biosafety framework and to make funding available to this end. It noted that a lack of awareness and political support for biosafety issues contributes to limited access to and uptake of funding for biosafety, and urged Parties to enhance efforts to raise awareness of key biosafety-related issues among policy and decision makers as well as to strengthen national consultative mechanisms among relevant government institutions regarding the programming of country allocations with a view to ensuring appropriate funding for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

The Subsidiary body also recommended strategic actions on **mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors** with a particular focus on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism. There were also recommendations on mainstreaming measures which cut across all sectors, such as the use of economic valuation tools, and environmental assessments which evaluate potential impacts on biodiversity as well as ecosystem services. Parties recognized the close linkages between the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and urged governments to ensure that biodiversity is included in the implementation of all relevant sustainable development goals. There were also provisions on the role of indigenous peoples and local communities, business and of subnational and local governments for the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as the role of gender. The GEF has a long history of funding biodiversity mainstreaming projects, and this need will increase as efforts to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are redoubled.

The Subsidiary Body recognized the need for a more integrated and coherent approach to **capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation** in supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols as well as with the other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, and noted the support provided by the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It also urged Parties, in particular developed country Parties, and invited other Governments and international financial institutions, regional development banks, and other multilateral financial institutions to support the establishment and maintenance of programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components and support such education and training to address specific needs of developing countries.

Regarding synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation agreed to continue working in consultation with Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions and in collaboration with the convention's secretariats to refine,



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consolidate and streamline options for actions prepared by Parties at a workshop on synergies among the biodiversity related-conventions held in February 2016, and requested the Executive Secretary to present the result of the collaborative work for the consideration of COP 13. The workshop was prepared by an informal advisory group composed of two members per region, selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on the basis of nominations by Parties. At the workshop, and with support from the secretariats and relevant international organizations, Party representatives from the seven conventions discussed eight issue areas to enhance synergies among the conventions, including resource mobilization and utilization. In this area, Party representatives prepared options for actions focused on taking measures to promote coordination in resource mobilization, including through relevant international financial mechanisms and instruments, including the Global Environment Facility.

In section A of decision XII/30, the Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions: (a) to provide elements of advice concerning the funding of the national priorities that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The submissions in response to section A of decision XII/30 received so far have been available online at <https://www.cbd.int/financial/blg.shtml>, including the decision of the Standing Committee to the Convention on Migratory Species at its 44th meeting (StC44) with regard to developing elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the national priorities for CMS aligned with the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, outcomes of the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES SC66, Geneva, 11-15 January 2016), and outcomes of the sixth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### 5. Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing

Since I last addressed the Council at its 48<sup>th</sup> Session, the Nagoya Protocol has received 16 additional ratifications and now has 76 Parties. We expect to reach 100 ratifications by the time of the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in Cancun in December of this year.

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its first meeting also considered progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, which addresses the Nagoya Protocol. With the entry into force of the Protocol, the first part of the Aichi Target has been achieved but Parties to the Protocol need to take further steps to implement the Protocol, including by establishing institutional structures and legislative, administrative or policy measures and making all relevant information available to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House. Further efforts are also required to support Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that have not yet done so to deposit their instrument of ratification or accession to the Nagoya Protocol as soon as possible, and to take steps towards its implementation. In this connection, the Subsidiary Body reiterated the need for financial resources to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in accordance with the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

To support coordination and promote synergies in building capacity for the Nagoya Protocol, the informal advisory committee on capacity-building held its first meeting in September 2015, and we were very pleased that a representative of the GEF was able to take part. The committee



## United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

identified a number of needs that should be taken into account in carrying out capacity-building to support implementation of the Protocol. A second meeting will take place in June this year.

Thank you very much

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