



**STATEMENT BY**

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA  
ON UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

**CHISINAU, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
10 SEPTEMBER 2012**



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now 20 years since heads of state met in Rio de Janeiro to adopt the Convention on Biological Diversity. Sadly, however, far too many people across the world remain apathetic to the ongoing loss of life on Earth. This is in part because the majority of the general public and, more importantly, most policymakers remain unaware of the irreplaceable contributions that biodiversity makes to human wellbeing. As a result, biodiversity continues to be lost, even in the world's best protected areas.

In Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, the Parties to the Convention agreed to an ambitious new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020 and set themselves 20 targets to guide their efforts to implement the Plan. You are meeting here this week to review the progress your region is making in meeting this challenge.

Whilst the overall trends for biodiversity in these regions remain mostly negative, some important advances in biodiversity conservation have been made. Our host country, Republic of Moldova, demonstrates a good example of current efforts being made within Ukrainian and Moldovan Steppe Regions as part of the multifaceted project for steppe biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Another case is the establishment of the National Ecological Network (NEN), to increase conservation efforts of specific protected areas sites, including plans for the elaboration of measures for forest rehabilitation, with emphasis on trans-boundary cooperation. In addition, Moldova provides a good case of the active participation of local communities. For example, seminars have taken place concerning the establishment of the National Park "Nistrul de Jos" and the ecological network in Middle Prut River. I am sure that there are many other examples of biodiversity conservation success in other countries in the region that will be discussed this week in the workshop.

None of these are easy victories for biodiversity. They require tradeoffs among the interests of different sectors of society which can be difficult to achieve politically, and we would therefore like to salute these and other efforts.

As I already mentioned, the tenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Plan is part of a package of measures adopted at COP-10 that also includes the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. We are working with Parties to achieve early ratification of these new Protocols and I encourage you to push for national ratification on your return to your countries.

COP-10 called upon Parties to formulate national targets, in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to integrate them into updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). COP-10 also set an ambitious timetable for this process – national targets need to be developed in time to report to COP-11 in Hyderabad in October 2012.

For this reason, with the support from the Government of Japan, the Secretariat, together with regional partners, has started a second round of workshops to provide further support to Parties. This workshop is a follow up to the ones organized last year, first in Germany and later on that year in Turkey and Belarus for respective regions. We will focus this week on setting targets, mainstreaming biodiversity, policy and legal aspects of NBSAPs, and resource mobilization. Also, a significant training contribution will be made to the workshop from UNEP-WCMC on behalf of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership as well as from the Secretariat of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). I am very grateful to our host, the Government and people of Moldova, for excellent collaboration and their very effective preparation of the workshop.

Many Parties have already initiated the revision process of their NBSAPs, which is an important step in the right direction. The involvement of participants from almost every country of this region, will build on this progress. With COP-11 in Hyderabad coming in less than two months, and this 2012, being the second year of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, there are many other steps that must be taken on the journey to 2020.

Ladies and gentlemen, your work here this week will have important repercussions for biodiversity in your regions. I am confident that all participants will work constructively to establish the foundations for the full and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. I wish you a productive workshop.

Thank you for your kind attention.