



STATEMENT

OF

MR. BRAULIO F. DE SOUZA DIAS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

On the occasion of

East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting

18 November 2015

Da Nang, Viet Nam



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Chair of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council Ambassador Mary Seet-Cheng, Viet Nam Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Chu Pham Ngoc Hien, PEMSEA Executive Director Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross, Chair Emeritus of the East Asian Seas Partnership Council Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address you at the East Asian Seas Partnership Council meeting, and it is fitting that the Congress chose “Global targets, local benefits” as the theme this year. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its tenth meeting, in 2010, agreed on a new global framework for conservation and sustainable development: the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but also for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. The framework addresses the underlying causes and the direct pressures of biodiversity loss and sets specific quantitative targets for improving the status of ecosystems, species, habitats and genetic diversity.

Strong regional partnerships are essential to assist CBD Parties on technical issues, such as integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning and transboundary conservation, to name only a few. The Secretariat of CBD has many excellent partners in East Asia, and I would like to take the opportunity to highlight PEMSEA.

You may know that the Conference of the Parties chose the ecosystem approach at its fifth meeting as the primary strategy for achieving its goals of conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. This is in recognition of the fact that the best way to conserve biodiversity is to focus on approaches that encompass the essential structure, processes and functions of biodiversity, the interactions among organisms and the wider context in which biodiversity exists. In fact, the ecosystem approach arose as a result of the failure of single-sector approaches to conservation.

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) has been and continues to be a pioneer of the ecosystem approach through its focus on integrated marine and coastal area management. CBD and PEMSEA are therefore natural partners.

In fact, in a nautical sense, PEMSEA is an “anchor” for the work of CBD in East Asia on marine and coastal issues. Through the regional roll-out of the CBD programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity in the seas of East Asia, PEMSEA has been at the forefront of advancing and implementing integrated coastal approaches in the region.

PEMSEA was an invaluable partner for the Convention in the development of CBD Technical Series 76, on integrated coastal management in East Asia. PEMSEA has also been an essential partner for CBD in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, which has helped countries and partners define areas of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) within national jurisdiction and on the high seas.

The CBD Secretariat, with the support of the Government of Germany, manages the LifeWeb Initiative, which is aimed at developing financial and technical partnerships to support countries in the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. PEMSEA and the ASEAN

Center for Biodiversity, another strong partner of CBD in the region, have developed a regional LifeWeb Expression of Interest in East Asia on integrated coastal management that is nationally endorsed and backed by the strong technical knowledge of PEMSEA and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the spirit of partnership, I call on all donors and technical partners to support this project. The Global Environment Facility and many governments have already committed significant funds for this work, but more is needed for the project to become fully operational and help to achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020.

Ambassador, ministers, colleagues, I thank you for your attention.
