



**STATEMENT BY**

**MR. BRAULIO F. DE SOUZA DIAS**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**at the opening of**

**CBD WORKSHOP FOR ASIA ON UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY  
STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND THE FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS**

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**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](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)



Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my warmest welcome and utmost thanks to you all from countries and organizations in the region for participating in the workshop on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the preparation of the fifth national reports.

My sincere thanks go to the Government of the People's Republic of China, in particular the Ministry of Environmental Protection, for hosting this important workshop in the capital city of Beijing. As you know, Beijing has been making great efforts to protect biodiversity in its urban and suburban areas over years, while addressing challenges posed by rapid urbanization and population growth. One example of this is the work of protecting David's deer in a park close to Beijing, which I had a chance to visit in person in May last year.

I wish to also acknowledge, with great appreciation, the Government of the Republic of Korea, for providing financial support to convene this regional workshop.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Article 6 of the Convention requires all Parties to develop national biodiversity strategies and action plans or similar strategies or plans to implement the Convention. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, having adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, called upon Parties to revise or update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans including setting up national biodiversity targets, in line with the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Aichi Target 17 requires that by 2015, each Party will have developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

As of yesterday, the end of May 2016, the Secretariat has received updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans from 90 countries. I regret to conclude, therefore that we have missed Aichi Target 17. The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held early last month in Montreal urged Parties that had not updated their NBSAPs to do so as soon as possible. Earlier, the eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Conference of the Parties have made similar requests.

National biodiversity strategies and action plans are planning tools to guide national actions in addressing national biodiversity issues and priorities while implementing the Convention and its Strategic Plan at national level, so it is important to have such a strategy and action plan in place as early as possible. We are only a few years away from 2020 and less than a half of the Parties have updated their NBSAPs and even fewer Parties have commenced implementing their revised NBSAPs. We are therefore strongly concerned that this will affect the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This is the very important reason for organizing this particular workshop. The purpose is to help as many Parties as possible to adopt and to start implementing updated NBSAPs before COP 13 in December this year in Mexico.

As you know, over the past few years, the Secretariat, together with its partners, and with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, has organized numerous capacity development workshops and other activities to support Parties in revising or updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Other international organizations such as UNDP and UNEP as well as regional organizations such as the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity have also provided support to the efforts of Parties in this regard. As I know, the Government of China, through UNEP China Fund and the China-ASEAN Center for Environmental Cooperation, has been providing considerable support to the ASEAN member states in updating their NBSAPs and other activities in the field of biodiversity for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

This workshop reflects our continued support to Parties in this region. We do hope that with the support of this workshop, all the participating countries will finalize, adopt and submit their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans in a few months after the workshop.

I wish to take this opportunity to call upon all the countries to adopt their NBSAPs as a policy instrument as required by Aichi Target 17. This means that the NBSAP should be approved by a body representing the whole-of-government such as a Head of Government or Committee or by the Parliament. We believe that this is crucial not only for the implementation of updated NBSAPs, but also for mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors. Conserving biodiversity cannot be achieved by a few people or groups but has to involve all the relevant sectors and stakeholders that impact on biodiversity. The upcoming thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Mexico has identified mainstreaming of biodiversity into key productive sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries as well as tourism, as its focus and priority area to act upon. “Mainstreaming biodiversity, Sustaining human beings and their livelihood”, has also been selected as the theme of the International Day of Biodiversity this year. We believe that national actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular many sustainable development goals and associated targets many of which are closely linked with biodiversity, provide a unique opportunity to mainstream biodiversity and implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As you know, COP 13 provides another opportunity to review progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Targets. Such a review depends on information provided by all Parties through their fifth national reports. So far we have received a total of 180 fifth national reports. This trend is encouraging however we hope to receive the fifth national reports from all Parties, which is very important for the decision-making processes under the Convention.

Having said all this, I wish you a successful and fruitful workshop.

Thank you.