



MEGADIVERSE

GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED
MEGADIVERSE COUNTRIES

LMMC/2010/UR/001

United Nations
General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AS A CONTRIBUTION TO
THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

New York, 22 September 2010

Statement by H.E. Ms. Izabella Teixeira, Minister of the Environment of Brazil, on behalf of the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries at the panel discussion on “The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the CBD, and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets”

Excellencies,


Brazil has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries, currently composed of 17 developing countries that harbor the vast majority of the planet’s biodiversity: Bolivia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Brazil.

Eight years ago, in 2002 in Mexico, the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries started out as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation to promote common interests and defend common priorities related to biological diversity. Ever since, we have been jointly voicing our concerns and working to address the challenges to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Megadiverse countries are approaching the 10th Conference of the Parties of the CBD with a spirit of compromise to work on three important elements that constitute an indivisible package of the international biodiversity regime: the Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, the Strategic Plan for the post-2010 period and the new Strategy for Resource Mobilization.

Excellencies,

The celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 stress the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem functioning and for the provision of ecosystem services essential for humankind, involving social, economic, cultural and environmental values. The fundamental issue for this year, though, is that we have not met the 2010 biodiversity target. We should take a moment to reflect upon this – and resolve to take action now. This is what COP-10 is about.

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The continued and accelerated loss of biodiversity has major and severe implications for current and future human well-being. The conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources are crucial not only to ensure continued benefits to local and indigenous communities, but also to create opportunities for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

We recognize the primacy of the CBD in setting the global biodiversity agenda. A balanced and enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention – conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such use – is a *sine qua non* condition for the reversal of the loss of biodiversity.

The success of any post-2010 international arrangement rests on implementing international norms and effective tools that: (i) recognize the value of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge, and the rights of indigenous and local communities over such knowledge; (ii) ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of these resources and associated traditional knowledge through financial and non-financial mechanisms; and (iii) harmonize levels of ambition of targets for biodiversity and for financial cooperation between developed and developing countries.

For this purpose, we call for finalizing, in COP-10, a balanced and effective Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, approving an achievable and workable Strategic Plan for the post-2010 period, and designing a new Resource Mobilization Strategy that can provide developing countries with adequate resources and technology. Decisions on these three elements will pave the way forward and, by re-shaping the future of the CBD, will define the future of biodiversity itself, just when States do not seem committed enough, and when climate change can bring about a whole new level of imbalance to ecosystems.

Excellencies,

The Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries was founded in Cancun, in 2002. In Cancun, 2010, climate change will be the major topic of negotiations. Climate change now poses one of the most significant threats to biodiversity. Many impacts of climate change have already been observed including changes in timing of life events, shifts in ranges of many species and increased disturbances such as droughts, floods, fire and coral bleaching. The issues of biodiversity and climate change are closely linked and, therefore, the efforts to address both need to be convergent at the international and national levels. The objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change should be met in a mutually supportive and reinforcing manner. There are opportunities for achieving this that cannot be missed in 2010 with the Nagoya and Cancun meetings, and with the political messages that we need to bear in mind for the Rio+20 Conference.

Thank you.