



**STATEMENT
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ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY SECOND COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA ITEM 20(F) ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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Thank you Ambassador Talbott

I am honoured to address the second committee of the United Nations General Assembly under your chairmanship

Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure for me to introduce the report of the Secretary-General to the 67th session of the General Assembly on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This report is being presented in accordance with resolution 66/202. The report covers in some detail the preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP11) which was held in Hyderabad, India from 8- 19th October. I would like to take this opportunity to brief the General Assembly on the major outcomes of the meeting. But before I do so I would like to place on appreciation for the generous hospitality of the Government and people of India in sparing no efforts to make COP 11 a success.

Since this is the first time I am addressing the UNGA after taking over as Executive Secretary of CBD, I would also like to share with you my vision for the Convention. The preservation of the Earth's biodiversity is essential to the future of humanity, to sustainable development and to uplifting the conditions of the poor. Biodiversity is the natural wealth or capital of our nations. Over the years, under the Convention, we have adopted a number of decisions and at COP 10 we evolved an ambitious global biodiversity agenda for the next decade (the Strategic Plan), with a balanced set of targets, as well as general agreed rules of the game for the implementation of its three objectives. With this, in my view the Convention has reached a mature stage and the time has come to focus on implementation, to share experiences on lessons learned, and address bottlenecks so that we can meaningfully translate commitments into actual implementation and reverse the alarming loss of biodiversity that continues unabated.

I am pleased to share with you at COP 11 we were successful in putting the focus on implementation and many of the decisions adopted at COP 11 revolved around practical measures and financial support for countries in implementing national biodiversity plans to meet the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India stated at the opening of the High Level Segment of the COP, *“Humankind should understand the importance of preserving biodiversity. The diversity of life forms on Earth is the culmination of millions of years of the productive genius of nature. It is nature’s insurance against extreme events that may disturb the delicate balance of life on this planet. We need to work together and act before a catastrophe is upon us ...despite global efforts, the 2010 biodiversity target that we had set for ourselves under the Convention on Biological Diversity was not fully met. This situation needs to change. The critical issue really is how to mobilise the necessary financial, technical and human resources, particularly the incubation, sharing and transfer of technology.”* COP 11 outcomes clearly demonstrate that governments have also begun to prioritise implementation.

On funding of implementation there were a number of breakthroughs. Developed countries agreed to double funding to support efforts in developing countries towards meeting the internationally-agreed Biodiversity Targets, and the main goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Using a baseline figure of the average annual national spending on biodiversity between 2006 and 2010, developed countries said they would double biodiversity-related international financial flows by 2015. The COP also set targets to increase the number of countries that have included biodiversity in their national development plans, and prepared national financial plans for biodiversity, by 2015. All Parties agreed to substantially increase domestic expenditures for biodiversity protection over the same period. These targets, and progress towards them, will be reviewed in 2014.

For the first time, developing countries at COP 11, including India and several African states, pledged additional funds above and beyond their core assessed contributions towards the work of the CBD. The conference also saw the launch of the Hyderabad Call for Biodiversity Champions. The programme will accept pledges from governments and organizations in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The government of India this week committed over US\$ 50 million as part of the programme. The Global Environment Facility, the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the first time, was provided with an assessment of the financial resources required to meet the needs of developing countries for implementing the Convention.

A number of decisions were also taken to enhance practical support to Parties in implementing national biodiversity plans to implement the Strategic Plan and its targets. These included measures to enhance technical and scientific cooperation among countries, through the launching of a new National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Forum (NBSAP Forum) by CBD, The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP. The online forum provides easy-to-access, targeted information such as best practices, guidelines and learning tools for countries. COP 11 also agreed to a number of measures to engage the main economic sectors, such as business and development organizations, to integrate biodiversity objectives in their plans and programmes.

Marine biodiversity was a major focus area at COP 11 and the decisions taken at COP 11 build on the commitment of countries made at the United Nations Rio+20 summit in June to protect and restore marine ecosystems and to maintain their biodiversity. To meet the Aichi Biodiversity Target of ensuring that 10 per cent of marine areas are protected by 2020, COP 11 decided to classify a diverse list of marine areas which are ecologically or biologically significant and to transmit this classification work to the United Nations General Assembly so that it can be considered by relevant UN processes linked to the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, in particular the United Nations General Assembly Working Group which is considering the development of an international agreement for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. Decisions were also taken on new measures to factor biodiversity into environmental impact assessments linked to infrastructure and other development projects in marine and coastal areas. Parties to the Convention also called for more research into the potential adverse effects of underwater noise from ships on marine and coastal biodiversity, and highlighted the growing concern on the adverse effects of marine litter. COP 11 also recognized the growing challenge of climate change impacts on coral reefs, which, Parties agreed, will require significant investment to overcome. There was also a call to fisheries management bodies to play a stronger role in addressing the impacts of fisheries on biodiversity.

Parties also provided guidance on the preparations for the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and agreed that a third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol will be needed in the upcoming two years. In this context I would like to brief you on the progress regarding the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. Ninety-two Parties to the Convention from all regions have signed the Nagoya Protocol and, eight Parties have deposited their instruments of ratification (Gabon, Jordan, Mexico, Rwanda, Seychelles, Lao People's Democratic Republic, India and Fiji). I am aware that many other Parties are working on their national ratification processes and are expected to ratify in the near term. I urge you all to ratify as soon as practicable, so that the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol can be held in conjunction with our COP.

COP 11 also adopted a number of other decisions of issues including on article 8(j), relating to indigenous and local communities, protected areas, measures to support achievement of Aichi Target 15 which calls for the restoration of 15% of degraded lands, climate change and biodiversity calling for enhanced collaboration between the CBD and UN climate change initiatives including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) to name just a few.

The conference also welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) earlier this year and requested IPBES to contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Another significant development was the convening of a parallel summit of Cities and Local Authorities. Participants adopted the Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, which supports the work of cities to achieve the Global Strategy for Biodiversity and calls for greater coordination between levels of government.

These and other decisions taken at COP 11 will be available on the CBD website. COP 11 also took a decision that COP 12 will take place in 2014 in the Republic of Korea.

I look forward to the valuable support and guidance of the General Assembly in consolidating the momentum generated at COP 11 for accelerating the implementation phase of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates

I thank you for your attention.