



Ref.: SCBD/OES/BD/AF/NP/fd/cr/83806

9 September 2014

NOTIFICATION

Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development High-level Segment of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 15-16 October 2014, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

Madam/Sir,

I would like to refer to notification 2014-103 in respect to the invitations issued on 31 July 2014 by the Government of the Republic of Korea to the High-level Segment of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. On the request of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I am pleased to provide you with additional information regarding the High-level Segment.

The invitation and the notification enclosed the draft text of the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development. In June 2014, a previous version of this text had been presented by the Government of the Republic of Korea to members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. At their fourth meeting held on 14 August 2014, noting that Parties had already been provided with opportunities to give their inputs to the preparation of the proposed Gangwon Declaration, members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties requested that Parties be given a further opportunity to provide essential comments on the text¹.

In light of this, and with a view to ensuring a transparent process for its preparation and thereby facilitating the adoption of the final text of the Gangwon Declaration at the High-level Segment, the Government of the Republic of Korea would appreciate receiving any such further comments **no later than 25 September 2014**. A copy of the most recent version is attached. Comments should be submitted to the following e-mail address: HLS@cbdcorp12.kr and clearly marked for the attention of Mr. Seukwoo Kang, Director, Korean Secretariat of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2014, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea.

The Government of the Republic of Korea has further advised that a final programme, as well as discussion notes for the High-level Segment prepared by the Government in consultation with the Secretariat, will be made available on 15 September 2014.

I would also like to take this opportunity to urge Governments that have not yet responded to the invitation to the High-level Segment to do so at their earliest convenience.

I would be most grateful if you could ensure that the enclosed information is brought to the kind attention of your respective Ministers.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop-bureau/cop-bur-2014/cop-bur-2014-08-14-minutes-en.pdf>

To: CBD National Focal Points



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 www.cbd.int





GANGWON DECLARATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, the Ministers and other heads of delegation, having met in Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea, on 15 to 16 October 2014, on the occasion of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Recalling the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and their crucial importance to sustainable development;

Recalling the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, in October 2010, and its 2050 Vision: "Living in Harmony with Nature" where "By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet, and delivering benefits essential for all people";

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20", Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012), entitled "The future we want" which, inter alia, (1) reaffirmed the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being; (2) recognized the severity of the global loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems; (3) emphasized that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water and the health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations; and (4) affirmed the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

Acknowledging that biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, contributes directly to human well-being in many ways, and is also a critical foundation of the Earth's life support system on which the welfare of present and future generations depends;

Recognizing that many economic sectors depend on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the water supply, agriculture, fishery, forestry, health, education, nutrition, energy, transport and tourism sectors, and that biodiversity is the basis for sustainable livelihoods and traditional knowledge, which are especially important to poor and vulnerable groups;

Noting that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems can improve ecosystem functioning and resilience and thereby contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, guarantee the provision of clean and secure supplies of water, protect coasts and watersheds, and reduce vulnerability to disasters;

Further noting that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems can support livelihoods, create new jobs, and provide important contribution to a creative economy;

Recognizing that mainstreaming biodiversity into wider sectoral policies, through the integration of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity into various sectors, is critical to the advancement of sustainable development;

Aware of and wishing to contribute to the ongoing discussions within the United Nations on a post-2015 development agenda and the elaboration of sustainable development goals;



1. *Welcome* the progress made by Parties to the Convention and governments in developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
2. *Note*, however, the conclusions of the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook that current progress is not sufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that biodiversity loss is continuing with adverse impacts on human well-being;
3. *Reaffirm* our commitment and determination to fully implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, recognizing that this requires a range of measures and policy coherence across government departments and sectors of society and the economy;
4. *Reaffirm* our commitment to provide financial resources and incentives in accordance with our respective obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account Article 20 of the Convention, in order to expedite implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan at the national or sub-national level;
5. *Welcome* the Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020 for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity targets (hereinafter Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020);
6. *Recognize* the need for enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among countries to implement the objectives of the Convention;
7. *Welcome* the initiatives of the Republic of Korea in support of the Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020 - the BioBridge Initiative to enhance technical and scientific cooperation, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative as well as the support for the ocean capacity building program and *support* these and other initiatives and partnerships for the accelerated implementation of the Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020;
8. *Emphasize* the relevance and key contribution of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Vision for 2050 to the post-2015 development agenda and *invite* the United Nations General Assembly to consider appropriately integrating elements of the objectives of the Convention, the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets in the post-2015 development agenda, and in particular, to consider:
 - a. Including in the final outcomes a goal focussed on the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems, and a goal on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems;
 - b. Further integrating biodiversity considerations into goals relating to poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, water, and health, energy, sustainable economic growth, infrastructure, cities and other relevant goals, including through the use of relevant indicators;
 - c. Adopting an agreed, transparent, and inclusive mechanism to translate the universal goals into national-level actions, taking into account the different circumstances and needs of different countries; and
 - d. Linking the outcomes into other processes relevant to implementation, such as the UN Development Assistance Framework process, and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
9. *Call on* all Parties to integrate implementation of the Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets with the implementation of the SDGs and post-2015 agenda and other relevant policy and planning measures;
10. *Recognize* the role of access and benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication, and environmental sustainability and, in this connection, *welcome* the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity as an



important instrument to pursue implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and *invite* Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Protocol;

11. *Further note* the creative economy approach which prioritizes economies that value the sensible use of natural resources for development and recognizes that creative ideas and technology evolved through observation of natural environment and traditional knowledge can safeguard biodiversity and forge a more sustainable and creative path for economic growth and development; and
12. *Recognize* the importance of transboundary and international cooperation to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and also to symbolize peace among nations in the Transboundary Protected Areas, and *welcome* efforts by the Republic of Korea to promote the peace and conservation of biodiversity in Korea's Demilitarized Zone. /End/