



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

SOUTHERN AFRICA WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE
IN SUPPORT OF THE NAGOYA OUTCOME

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
FRIDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2011

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to extend my warmest greetings to you all at the workshop on biodiversity and finance, which is being organized in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility Expanded Constituency Workshop. The two workshops have come together naturally: while the GEF workshop seeks to enhance better access to and effective utilization of available resources from the financial mechanism of the Convention, the CBD workshop is aimed at the mobilization of more, better and faster resources from all public and private sources through traditional and innovative mechanisms to support the achievement of the Convention's objectives, in particular the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan.

For the first time among all the conventions, the series of regional workshops on biodiversity and finance held in conjunction with the GEF regional workshops have brought together the focal points of the Convention and its financial mechanism, who have primary responsibility of ensuring national implementation of the Convention, to jointly reflect on financial implications of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, exchange perspectives and experiences in financing biodiversity projects and programmes, enhance capacities in developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies, and investigate financial solutions including emerging ideas of new approaches to biodiversity financing. It is also the first time under the Convention that the Secretariat has been able to organize workshops to discuss financial issues at the regional level. Through the efforts, the biodiversity community can not only explore how to make good use of 'fishes', but also gain insights into how to fish and how to work together for bigger fishes.

You have a comprehensive programme today. The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties is expected to adopt targets under the strategy for resource mobilization, provided that robust baselines have been identified and endorsed and that an effective reporting framework has been adopted. The Secretariat has worked to prepare draft methodological guidance and implementation guidelines as well as a draft survey on application of resource mobilization indicators for global consultation and peer review. Your cooperation in finalizing these notes and subsequently submitting relevant information is very important to the preparation of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The enormous values of biodiversity and ecosystem services have been increasingly confirmed by various researches in the past few years. The challenge is how to translate, through innovative mechanisms, the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into tangible revenue streams that will support the objectives of the Convention and contribute to poverty eradication and Millennium Development Goals. Many practical examples are already available, and the Secretariat has received nearly twenty submissions on innovative financial mechanisms with over 800 pages. Further activities to explore these mechanisms must be designed with participation of all interested stakeholders.

As national biodiversity strategies and action plans are revised and updated around the world, it is important to consider developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies as called for in the Convention's Strategy for Resource Mobilization. As a technical support, the Secretariat has drafted the indicative guidelines for developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies, outlining the stakeholders, participatory process, structure and all areas of resourcing. To make this as a useful tool, the Secretariat very much welcomes your inputs and suggestions.

I wish you a successful meeting and thank you for your kind attention.

