



COMMUNIQUÉ

Meeting of sub-national governments opens new chapter in implementation of the CBD

Montreal, 26 April 2012 – The Meeting of Sub-national Governments in support of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, held 24-27 April 2012 in Curitiba, Brazil, has opened a new chapter in the sub-national implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and in the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity, the multi-stakeholder platform created to support the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020).

The objective of the meeting, organized by the State Government of Paraná, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), was to identify and disseminate best practices, promote decentralized cooperation on biodiversity, establish an Advisory Committee on Sub-National Governments for Biodiversity to advise Parties in implementing the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets, and call for cooperation between participating States.

At the opening ceremony, attended by some 200 officials, the Governor of Paraná, Beto Richa, launched the State Government's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Developed through a consultative process, the BIOCLIMA plan addresses climate change, incentives and payment for ecosystem services.

Roberto Cavalcanti, Secretary for Biodiversity and Forests of the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, expressed Brazil's full support to the aforementioned initiatives and to the BIOCLIMA program as a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in line with Brazil's NBSAP. Mayor Luciano Ducci of Curitiba noted the synergy of the State strategy with Curitiba's own Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Biocity strategy.

The States and Provinces of Andhra Pradesh, India; Aichi Prefecture, Japan; Catalonia, Spain; Brussels, Belgium; Rhône-Alpes, France; Gyeongsangnam-do, Korea; Quintana Roo, Mexico; Hyogo Prefecture, Japan; Quebec, Canada; and, Sichuan, China, contributed case studies and agreed to cooperation on biodiversity, backed by nrg4SD. Additional contributors included UN-HABITAT, UNU-IAS, ICLEI and several municipal governments.

During the workshop, the 45 participants also discussed a roadmap of events and activities leading to the Sub-national Governments Summit in Hyderabad, parallel to COP 11, and to the Cities for Life Summit, co-organized with ICLEI. Tools such as TEEB/valuation, CBO, CBI, eco-certification (through the Life initiative) and public sustainable procurement were discussed and best practices identified. A Paraná Declaration on Sub-national Governments and Biodiversity was also adopted.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, said: "I am very satisfied with the results of the meeting and by the quality of work presented by the participating sub-national governments. This makes us more optimistic that we will reach the Aichi Targets. We will however only be able to reach our goals with the full participation of all levels of government."

Mr. Dias added: "Based on these significant results, I hope that additional SNGs will join us at the Hyderabad Summit of Cities and Sub-national Governments. I want to thank the State of Paraná, and specifically our friends Governor Beto Richa and Jonel Lurk, State Secretary of the Environment and Water, for understanding the immense potential of SNGs to support implementation of the CBD. I must also acknowledge the key role played by UN-HABITAT, UNU-IAS, our long-term partner ICLEI, the city of Curitiba, and nrg4SD, through its Secretary General Maruxa Cardama. I look forward to further developing this partnership and to seeing all of you in Hyderabad."
