



OPENING REMARKS

BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ABS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

**ALPENSIA INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, PYEONGCHANG, SOUTH KOREA
18 OCTOBER 2014**



**Convention on
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**Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure to convey my warm regards to you all on the occasion of the General Assembly of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. I regret that the CBD Secretariat could not be represented at this important meeting due to other commitments.

This General Assembly takes place at a critical moment in the life of the Nagoya Protocol. As you are aware, the Protocol entered into force on the 12th of October and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP MOP 1) concluded last evening with very good outcomes.

The COP-MOP adopted thirteen key decisions which provide a strong foundation for the full implementation of the provisions of the Protocol. These include, among others, the comprehensive strategic framework for capacity-building and development and an awareness-raising strategy for the Protocol. The Parties also adopted the modalities of operation for the ABS Clearing-house and a reporting format for interim national report under the Protocol. Most importantly, the Parties approved cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote compliance with the provisions of the Protocol and to address cases of non-compliance, including the establishment of a Compliance Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The entry into force of the Protocol and the conclusion of the first COP-MOP are but just the first step of a long journey ahead. A lot more work has to be done to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to ensure timely and full achievement Aichi Biodiversity Target 16. This will require collaboration and partnerships among various stakeholders.

In this regard, we are pleased to note the work that the ABS Capacity Development Initiative is undertaking in collaboration with other partners, which has also been highlighted and

recognized in various decisions adopted during COP MOP 1 meeting. I hope that the Initiative, given its wealth of experience on ABS issues, will continue and scale up its support to countries as they work towards developing new or updating existing legislative, administrative and policy measures to meet the obligation set out in the Nagoya Protocol and thus contribute the achievement of the second part of Aichi Target 16. I am also hopeful that donors will provide additional resources to enable key players, such as the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, UNEP, UNDP and others, to assist Parties in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

The CBD Secretariat looks forward to continuing and strengthening our collaboration with the Initiative and other partners, particularly in assisting Parties to operationalise the strategic framework for capacity-building and capacity development and other decisions adopted by COP-MOP 1. Let us continue our collective efforts to make the Nagoya Protocol fully operational and make access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge a reality for the benefit of all.

I wish you all the best in your deliberations and look forward to receiving the outcomes of the General Assembly.

Thank you.