

**Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 12)**

(Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6-17 October 2014)

Opening Statement

Delivered on 6 October 2014 to the CBD COP 12 Plenary

Mr President, honourable delegates

I am speaking on behalf of the EU, its Member States.

We would firstly like to pay tribute to Republic of Korea, the Province of Gangwon, the local authorities and particularly to the city of Pyeongchang, for hosting COP 12. We wish the Republic of Korea all the best with its COP Presidency and we warmly welcome the initiative of the Government to host a high-level segment on the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" in the context of this COP 12. In addition, we would like to thank India for its successful Presidency in the last two years and its generous support the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The agreement reached at COP 10 in Nagoya in 2010, including an ambitious Strategic Plan 2011-2020 with the 20 Aichi Targets, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the decision on implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, was indeed historical. We welcome the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol next week and the full achievement of the Aichi Target 16.

COP 11 clearly emphasised that biodiversity is a cornerstone for sustainable development and poverty eradication, and demonstrated that multilateral environmental governance and institutions deliver benefits to all in presence of shared political willingness. Under this perspective, the EU and its MS call for the objectives of the CBD and those of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets to be appropriately reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals targets and indicators. We welcome the initiative of the Korean Presidency to have sustainable development as the main theme of the High Level Segment and of the Gangwon Declaration.

The EU and its Member States are strongly committed to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its related Protocols as well as of the decisions adopted by their governing bodies, in particular the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, also through the implementation of our National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

It is clear that effective implementation of the CBD and the Aichi Targets will require putting in place the right policy frameworks and governance structure as well as a significant increase in financial, human and technical resources from all sources. We will engage constructively in the negotiations on these important topics to develop the Pyeongchang Roadmap for the further implementation of the Strategic Plan.

We look forward to a coherent and balanced decision on a final target on resource mobilization, reflecting all the elements of the package adopted in Hyderabad. We reaffirm that, together, we commit to contribute to doubling total biodiversity-related financial resource flows from a variety of sources to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, by 2015, using as reference level the average of annual biodiversity funding for the years 2006-2010, and at least maintaining this level until 2020.

The EU and its MS also stress the importance of domestic resource mobilization and highlight the need for all CBD Parties to mobilise resources, and to increase efforts to mainstream biodiversity across their policy frameworks.

Mr President, honourable delegates

The Hyderabad commitments were a major achievement in our common endeavour to realise all three objectives of the CBD but we must work harder and wider.

We would like to stress once again that the CBD cannot and should not work in isolation. Whether at global, regional, national or local level, biodiversity policies can only be successful when they are integrated into a whole range of other policy areas, including economic and social policies. This underlines the crucial catalytic role of the Convention in reaching out to a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector, NGOs, indigenous and local communities, as well as local authorities. Enhancing synergies with other UN organisations and multilateral environmental agreements and in particular biodiversity related conventions is also a priority. A successful implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan largely depends on such mainstreaming and synergies.

The EU and its Member States will do their utmost to maintain the momentum and make COP 12 successful.

Thank you. Ms Chair President.