



**Statement Of The Executive Secretary
Of The Convention On Biological Diversity
Braulio Ferreira De Souza Dias**

On The Occasion Of The

Regional Workshop For East/South/Southeast Asia On Cities And Biodiversity

And The

**Regional Workshop For East, South And Southeast Asia On South-South Cooperation On
Biodiversity For Development**

21 – 24 May 2014,

Qingdao, Province Of Shandong, China



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Honourable Vice-Minister,
Mr. Vice Mayor,
National Focal Points,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured and pleased to be here in Qingdao, Shandong Province, recently named one of China's 10 most livable cities.

This inspiring 6,000 year-old city, rich in natural and cultural heritage, is known as a city of "red tiles, green trees, blue sky and blue sea".

It is also known as a scientific powerhouse. Attracting world-class research and development facilities from around the world, it recently hosted a meeting of the Maritime Innovative Territories International Network (MITIN).

It is also currently hosting the 2014 Qingdao International Horticultural Exposition, with two square kilometres dedicated to showcasing the world's most creative solutions for green and more sustainable cities and for sustainable development in general.

Against this backdrop, Qingdao is well-placed to host these two regional workshops, on Cities and Biodiversity, and on South-South Cooperation. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) welcomes your leadership in preparing these important events around the 2014 International Day for Biological Diversity. I am grateful to the Ministry of Environmental Protection for its help and support in the organization of these two workshops.

China is a megadiverse country with one-sixth of the world's population and the second largest economy. With its tremendous scientific expertise, and an unmatched diversity of cultures and experiences, China is in a position to make valuable contributions to scientific and technical cooperation to help countries achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Conversely, its unprecedented development and large-scale urbanization will require innovative approaches and technologies like never before.

Therefore, China's approaches and technological advances are of great relevance to the future well-being of all Parties to the Convention. Nowhere is the urban transition more high-profile than in China. By 2030, it is expected that 220 Chinese cities will have at least one million residents. China's Five-Year Plan, as well as its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, clearly emphasizes sustainable urban development.

I am delighted that over the next four days government officials from 22 Parties directly involved in biodiversity management at the national and subnational levels, mayors, governors, and other high-ranking officials, as well as experts on scientific and technical cooperation, will discuss how best to address the contribution of cities and other subnational governments to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. They will also be discussing how to define modalities and options to foster South-South, triangular and other forms of cooperation, examine trends and perspectives, and both workshops will advance concrete suggestions that will be very timely for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place later this year in the Republic of Korea.

I look forward to open, productive discussions and to concrete and practical outcomes from these workshops. Thank you for your attention.
