



**WELCOME MESSAGE FROM BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS, EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
TO
SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its offer to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 7), one of the three major CBD meetings being held in Pyeongchang, Korea.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has achieved major accomplishments since its entry into force in September 2003. The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is now fully functional, and a number of other tools and processes have been established to support the implementation of the Protocol such as the Compliance Committee is established and functional; and the COP-MOP adopted the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in October 2010.

Even though many Parties have made progress towards developing their human resources, institutional capacities and establishing legal, administrative and other measures to support the Protocol, there are still many countries that are faced with challenges in their efforts to implement the Protocol. For this reason, in October 2010, the Strategic Plan for the Protocol was adopted during the fifth meeting of the Parties to guide Parties and provide the necessary catalytic effect for the implementation of the Protocol.

At the seventh meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol it is expected that a process will be established for the conduct of the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol. This will take place in conjunction with the mid-term evaluation of the Protocol's Strategic Plan to be conducted at the eighth meeting. The seventh meeting will also take additional decisions to further advance key issues in implementation, including risk assessment, socio-economic considerations, unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) and contained use of living modified organisms (LMOs).

Parties will also convene a special session on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The special session is intended to provide a platform for sharing views, experiences, and information on the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Protocol. In particular, the special session will allow Parties to share experience and exchange views on better ways of integrating biosafety into relevant national development plans, other relevant national policies and programmes and to mobilize additional resources to advance the implementation of the Protocol at the national level in line with the Strategic Plan.

As we prepare for the Pyeongchang meeting, I urge all Parties that have not yet done so to ratify the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Supplementary Protocol has passed the halfway mark of entering into force with its current



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



25 ratifications as of 28 July 2014. The Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress will come into force after 40 ratifications.

Furthermore, as we prepare towards the seventh meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, I call upon Parties to re-commit to the objectives of the Protocol as their contribution to the theme of the Pyeongchang meetings: “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development.”

I invite all of you to join in the fruitful discussions in Pyeongchang.
