

**Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10/CBD)  
Nagoya, Japan, 19th October 2010**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BRAZIL ON BEHALF OF  
THE LIKE-MINDED MEGADIVERSE COUNTRIES, GRULAC AND THE  
ASIA-PACIFIC LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES**

Your Excellency, Minister Matsumoto

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brazil delivers this statement on behalf of the Like-minded Megadiverse Countries, GRULAC and the Asia-Pacific Like-minded Countries. As you can reckon, it is quite a long list of countries, but it is enough to say that such a broad representation comprises developing countries that harbor the overwhelming majority of the planet's biodiversity. It is indeed a huge honor and responsibility to promote our common interests and defend our common priorities related to biological diversity. I would like to thank our distinguished colleagues for trusting us this important task.

On behalf of this broad constituency, I would like to pay tribute to the Government and the people of Japan for hosting this Aichi-Nagoya Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We believe that such fantastic venue and warm reception are going to be taken as memorable elements that kicked off the outstanding success of this Conference. The expectations for COP-10 are high and so are the spirits to begin to respond to them.

We meet at the end of this United Nations International Year of Biodiversity and at the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity. We commend the Japanese Government for this timely proposal of the Decade of Biodiversity, for this is definitely the time to learn the lessons from the shortcomings of the 2010 biodiversity targets and transform our words and political discussions into real action.

Action, this is what COP-10 is all about. This could be a historical moment, and we must rise up to the challenge.

The challenge of COP10 goes beyond the issues immediately before us on the documents we are to negotiate the following weeks. COP10 must address not only the balanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention – we have upon our shoulders the responsibility to renew the world's confidence on the environmental multilateral system. We cannot afford to forget this fact, not only for a single minute.

We believe we are up to this task. The Like-minded Megadiverse Countries, GRULAC and the Asia-Pacific Like-minded Countries have arrived at Nagoya with a spirit of compromise to work on the three important elements that constitute the indivisible package of the international biodiversity regime: the Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, the Strategic Plan for the post-2010 period and the new Strategy for Resource Mobilization.

Decisions on these three elements will pave the way forward and, by reshaping the future of CBD, will define the future of biodiversity itself. The issues of biodiversity are closely linked and the efforts to address them need to be convergent at the international and national levels. There are opportunities for achieving this that cannot be missed in 2010, for they constitute the political messages that we need to bear in mind for the Rio+20 Conference.

Excellencies,  
About the Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, I must underline the fact that we came to Nagoya with the spirit of concluding this very important instrument – one that is significant in stopping biopiracy and efficient in benefit-sharing. Therefore, a Protocol that includes derivatives, with strong compliance measures. But in order to succeed we need the commitment of all Parties, and above all we need their political will. The political will of each and every one of the Parties.

The successful outcome achieved in the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provides us with an opportunity to build on the momentum provided by the adoption of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. We trust this is an example to emulate so as to achieve the adoption of a meaningful Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing to the Convention on Biological Diversity here in Nagoya in CoP 10.

The Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing will allow us to put into action the third objective of the Convention, guaranteeing its balanced implementation. It is the so-far absent link between the Convention's three objectives. As such, it is a mandatory step for achieving the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, thus unlocking the other processes under way in the CBD. It is the central piece of the package negotiation, and should be viewed as single undertaking.

Discussing a Strategic Plan and its Resource Mobilization for the next 10 years without accomplishing the ABS task compromises our future efforts in establishing a new international level of biodiversity policy making. These issues are inextricably connected and are of great concern to all Parties, but especially to developing countries. The strategic value of biodiversity is even greater to the developing world, for the conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources are crucial not only to ensure ecosystem functioning, but also to create opportunities for sustainable development, ending poverty, improving human well-being and Living in Harmony with Nature.

The success of any post-2010 international arrangement rests on implementing international norms and effective tools that: (i) ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge through financial and non-financial mechanisms; (ii) guarantee the compliance with ABS legislations or regulations; and (iii) harmonize levels of ambition for targets for biodiversity and for financial cooperation between developed and developing countries.

The Like-minded Megadiverse Countries, GRULAC and the Asia-Pacific Like-minded Countries are concerned over the fact that meeting any post-2010 biodiversity target will not be possible without significant contributions of timely, adequate and predictable new and additional financial resources. Despite the Monterrey Consensus negotiated by the General Secretariat of the United Nations, rich and developed countries are failing to earmark 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product for Official Development Assistance. A central part of our future efforts must include North-South support in order to harmonize levels of ambition between biodiversity targets and financial cooperation.

Excellencies,

We acknowledge the gaps between North and South negotiating positions under CBD. This is expected and absolutely normal. In a way, such differences are very positive, for they bring to surface the complexities and varieties of this huge world. But we are fully aware that we can bridge these gaps. This is the perfect juncture in time to do so.

Thank you very much!