

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

COP 10 has placed the conservation of biodiversity as one of the top priorities on the international agenda covering not only forestry, but the total global development agenda. The Conference underscores the importance of biodiversity for ourselves, for our children and for our planet earth.

During the COP calls have been made for a higher commitment of the international community in particular to provide more support in terms funding, capacity building and transfer of technology.

The conclusion of the ABS is a necessary complement for these measures to succeed and to ensure sustainability.

Funds were also pledged by major donors and financial mechanisms such as the GEF, the World Bank, Regional banks and individual countries including Japan. One of the major outcomes of the COP will be the new CBD Strategic Plan, the ABS and a revamped funds mobilization strategy. Everything seems to be in place to have a stronger action and to meet the 2020 target.

We need however to look back and identify the reasons that have prevented us to achieve the 2010 Objectives, and reduce the risk of facing the same disappointment in 2020. We need a plan, and the new strategic plan which has been developed with the involvement of all stakeholders cares for that. We will have at regional, national and sub-national levels the same exercise.

We need funds, and the political momentum generated at this COP and funds commitments already announced will certainly deliver.

Then we need implementation. Many presentations made at this COP demonstrate clearly that we have enough institutions frameworks at

international level and sometimes at the national level to do the job. Appeal is therefore made to fully use existing institutions, taking into account their experience and performance if we want to achieve the target on time.

It has also been clearly recognized that the issue of biodiversity cannot be taken in isolation, the same with the issue of climate change and other services generated by forests.

Synergies have to be built in addressing these issues. Consistent with this approach, ITTO has developed a thematic programme on REDDES (Reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing environmental services in tropical forests). The Thematic Programme addresses issues related to environmental services provided by forests, including climate change, biodiversity, and with the objective to enhance livelihoods in local communities. Ten pilot projects financed under this programme are underway in the 3 tropical regions. In order to achieve the objectives of the strategic plan, the activities under the thematic programme will be expanded, reaching more countries and more communities; the ITTO transboundary programme will be strengthened; rehabilitation of degraded forest land will also be expanded.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, during this International Year of Biodiversity 2010, ITTO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat to develop a collaborative initiative to support the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity in the ITTO producer member countries, which account for about 80% of the tropical forests of the world. The declaration of the International Year of Forests in 2011, by the United Nations will ensure that the momentum generated at COP10 will be extended to 2011 and beyond!

Thank you for your kind attention.