

Ministerial meeting of the Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) Group

Presented by the Government of Malaysia **Xavier**



Xavier Jayakumar, Minister of Water, Land, and Natural Resources, Malaysia; **Barbara Thomson**, Deputy Minister, Environmental Affairs, South Africa

Jayakumar, Minister of Water, Land, and Natural Resources, Malaysia, and current Chairman of the Like Minded Mega Diverse Countries (LMMC) Group, welcomed ministers and delegates observing that the meeting represented a significant milestone. He reflected on the Group's success in influencing decision-making, highlighting the Nagoya Protocol as a notable achievement; as well as the adoption of the LMMC Carta to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (conserving by 2020, 17% of terrestrial water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas, through protected areas and other area-based conservation measures) at COP 13, in Cancun, Mexico. Jayakumar announced that the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, focusing on digital sequence information, genetic resources, Aichi target 11, and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework would be presented during the course of the day. He also noted that the declaration had been led by Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and South Africa, while the CBD Secretariat had been the lead organization. Congratulating delegates on its adoption,

he noted that the Declaration would be submitted to the Secretariat and circulated as an information document for COP 14.

Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, Germany, expressed gratitude as he received a certificate of Appreciation to acknowledge his country's contribution to biodiversity conservation in LMMCs, including 500 million euros, per year, for forestry conservation.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, CBD Executive Secretary, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the CBD Secretariat's organizational support to the LMMC Group. Receiving the certificate, Paşca Palmer expressed continued commitment to work in the same spirit and support to the Group.

Melesse Maryo, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, delivering remarks on behalf of **Gemedo Dalle**, Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ethiopia, after the appointment of Ethiopia as Chair of LMMCs for the 2019-2020 period expressed sincere gratitude to member countries for honoring Ethiopia through this appointment. He congratulated Malaysia for its stewardship of the Group during the last two years; and looked at the task ahead as an opportunity rather than a challenge. Observing that a significant amount of biological and cultural diversity has flourished and is still maintained within LMMC territories, he noted that coordinated efforts should be multifaceted and would have far-reaching impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Ethiopia then presented gifts to LMMC delegations.

Expressing continued commitment and support to the Group, **Barbara Thomson**, Deputy Minister, Environmental Affairs, South Africa, announced that her country had designated 21 Marine Protected Areas.



Xavier Jayakumar, Minister of Water, Land, and Natural Resources, and **Jochen Flasbarth**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, Germany



Melesse Maryo, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, Ethiopia, and **Xavier Jayakumar**, Minister of Water, Land, and Natural Resources



Cristiana Paşca Palmer, CBD Executive Secretary, and **Xavier Jayakumar**, Minister of Water, Land, and Natural Resources



Ministers and high-level representatives pose for a photo