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8 February 2017

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I would like to thank you for your valuable contribution to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016 and to the associated 5th Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments on Biodiversity for Development, held on 10-11 December 2016. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Councillor Réal Ménard, Mr. Daniel Hodder and the staff of the city of Montreal. The Cancun meetings resulted in several positive outcomes concerning the important role of city and subnational governments towards the objectives of the Convention.

In decision XIII/1, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to facilitate the development of subnational or local biodiversity strategies and action plans through subnational governments, cities and other local authorities. In addition, in decision XIII/3, the Conference of the Parties recognized the need for more effective engagement of subnational and local governments and called on Parties to strengthen contributions of subnational and local governments to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its fourteenth meeting to be held in 2018 in Egypt, the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sector of infrastructure development.

Furthermore, during the High-Level Segment of the Conference, ministers from all over the world adopted the "*Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being*" in which they agreed to work at all levels within their governments and across all sectors to mainstream biodiversity through a series of eighteen actions, among them to promote the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems as a basis for achieving human needs, including the need for sustainable and inclusive cities and human settlements. The outcome document of the 5th Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments, the "*Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity Action*", highlights priority focus areas that will enable local and subnational governments to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The announcement during the Conference of the Parties of Montreal's two-year cooperation with the city of Paris "*Paris-Montréal, regards croisés sur l'écologie urbaine et la végétalisation*" was very well received. The Secretariat stands ready to support this initiative within its capacity and through appropriate means. We believe that this and other biodiversity-related initiatives of the City of Montreal can also serve as an important part of Montreal's contributions to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016.

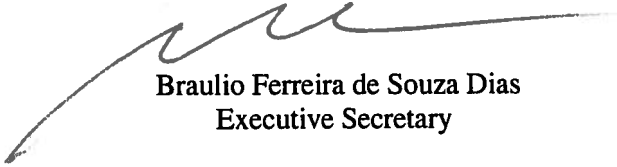
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Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the report from the David Suzuki Foundation on biodiversity in Montreal's borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, as attached. Given the rigour of the study and the compelling evidence it presents regarding both the rich biodiversity of the area and the presence of threatened species such as the Bobolink, I believe that it could serve as a very valuable input to the decision-making process regarding development options for this area of Montreal.

As my mandate as Executive Secretary comes to an end, I would like to express my appreciation for the constructive engagement we have accomplished. I am confident that the fruitful cooperation between the Convention and the City of Montreal, including through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, will continue to grow under the direction of the incoming Executive Secretary of the Convention, Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer.

Please accept, Mr. Mayor, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary

Attachment