

Summary of the side event by GoLS, nrg4SD, ICLEI and SCBD
along SBSTTA21

- The 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which aim to orient a variety of stakeholders to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, are very effective norms for the mainstreaming of biodiversity for all players and levels of government.
- Subnational governments, due to their interest to maintain regional ecosystems, play especially important roles to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity, by collaborating with their national governments, municipalities and many stakeholders, and by instilling the economic and social value of biodiversity across their territories.
- This important role of subnational governments was clearly recognized in COP decision X/22, “Plan of Action on Biodiversity of subnational governments, cities and other local governments”, thereafter strengthened by COP decision XI/8 and XII/9. Quintana-Roo Communique at COP13 and COP decision XIII/3 have clarified the relationship between subnational governments and the mainstreaming of biodiversity.
- GoLS, Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets, was established by Aichi (Japan), ANAAE (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Ontario (Canada), Québec (Canada) and Sao Paulo (Brazil), with support of nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development), ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), Secretariat of CBD and CONABIO (National Commission for Conservation and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico). The objective of GoLS is to promote and strengthen the different initiatives on biodiversity led by GoLS’s members and other subnational governments, through cooperation, exchange and discussion. It was launched at CBD COP13 where the members of GoLS presented a joint statement during the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments. After COP13, Campeche (Mexico) and Gangwon (Korea) have joined GoLS, which now consists of eight members.
- Through the activities of GoLS, such as the side event of COP13, web conferences and today’s side event of SBSTTA-21, we show that the members of GoLS, commonly have been addressing most of Aichi Targets with a variety of measures and mainstreaming biodiversity by generating concrete actions engaging many stakeholders of the societies.

- nrg4SD, one of the supporting organizations of GoLS, launched a long-term project “Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform” (R4BLP). This project has been carried out successfully with a number of members, providing good opportunities for deep exchange of specific subjects between subnational governments.
- These initiatives, such as GoLS and nrg4SD, are leading to some developments like new methodology to conserve biodiversity or to engage people to it.
- Although promoting subnational actions is important, encouraging vertical collaboration among governments is essential in order to enhance the mainstreaming of biodiversity across the world. Most of the members of GoLS are collaborating with national governments by providing good practices or committing positively for the implementation of national BSAPs.
- ICLEI, another supporting organization of GoLS, have just launched new “Guidelines on Subnational Implementation of NBSAPs”, based on many experiences of national, subnational and local collaborations.
- Therefore, we share the thought that horizontal collaborations among subnational governments and vertical collaboration among different levels of government should be enhanced and considered more, through the ongoing implementation and assessment of CBD Strategic Plan, in order to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the mainstreaming of biodiversity.
- We will continue to discuss and showcase our contribution to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in all spheres, and call the Parties and subnational governments in the world to join our discussions.

14th December 2017

GoLS; Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets
nrg4SD; Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
ICLEI; International Council for Local Environment Initiatives