

## United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

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22 April 2016

Dear Prof. Abdel-Azeem,

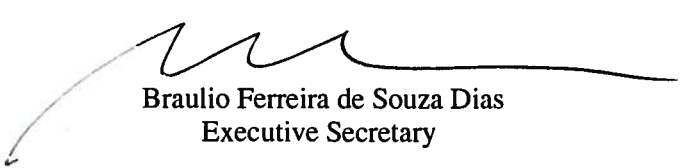
I would like to thank you for the invitation to attend the First International Conference on Fungal Conservation in the Middle East and North Africa, to be held on 18-20 October 2016 in Ismailia, Egypt. I would like to congratulate the Arab Society for Fungal Conservation for addressing the various aspects and challenges of fungal conservation. The conference is important for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to further improve and share knowledge of fungal taxonomy that contributes in the areas of food and agriculture, identification of pathogens or useful symbionts to protect the health of animals, plants and humans under environmental stresses during the Anthropocene.

Unfortunately, due to previous commitments, the Secretariat will be unable to be represented at the Conference. However, please kindly share the reports and overall outcomes of the Conference with us in order to seek ways to further collaborate in future activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Arab Society for Fungal Conservation to consider further contributions to the CBD process through the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, a programme adopted by the CBD Conference of the Parties to halt the continuing loss of plant diversity through 16 outcome-oriented global targets set for 2020. Furthermore, contributions can also be made through the Global Taxonomy Initiative, which has been developed to enhance taxonomic capacity to underpin the implementation of the CBD. Effective conservation and management of biodiversity depends in large part on understanding species and their contribution to ecosystems and human well-being. More information on these programmes can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/gspc/intro.shtml> and <http://www.cbd.int/gti/default.shtml>, respectively.

Rest assured that the Secretariat stands ready to continue working with you in the spirit of collaboration, so that the outcomes of this Conference can provide substantive support for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the overall Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Yours sincerely,



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Executive Secretary

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