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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome of the third session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-3) (Bonn, 12-17 January 2015)

Delegations will find in Annex a report on the outcome of the third session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-3) (Bonn, 12-17 January 2015) as prepared by the Presidency.

**Outcome of the third session of the Plenary of the
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity
and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-3)
(Bonn, 12-17 January 2015)**

The EU delegates of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia (Presidency), Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Commission attended the IPBES-3 plenary.

The following main results from the IPBES-3 agenda items are:

Agenda item 5: Initial work programme of the Platform

a) Task forces on capacity-building, knowledge and data (including data and management plan/system) and indigenous and local knowledge systems

The Plenary adopted the priority capacity building needs prepared by the task force on capacity building and requested task force to complete the pilot implementation of the draft programme on fellowship, exchange and training.

The Plenary decided to continue piloting preliminary indigenous and local knowledge approaches and procedures in regions. To develop inter alia further draft procedures and approaches for working with indigenous and local knowledge planned to be considered at its fourth session. The Plenary also approved the data and information management plan.

b) Guides on assessments, policy support tools and methodologies, and preliminary guides on scenario analysis and modelling and the conceptualization of values

It was agreed for the continuation of the expert group established for the development of the preliminary guide on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people until the IPBES-4. The Plenary also requested group to revise the report on scoping for the methodological assessment regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits and to revise preliminary guide.

The Plenary requested the Secretariat to further enhance the online catalogue of assessments. As well as to establish, after its review, the catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies, IPBES-4 is to consider how these could be catalysed.

c) Scoping documents for regional assessments, land degradation and restoration and the conceptualization of values

There were quite extensive discussions concerning the integration and resources for all assessments (e.g. see non-paper [Regional thematic coupling draft work plan](#)).

The Plenary agreed to develop a coordinated (coupling) approach between the regional/sub-regional assessments, the thematic assessments and global assessment with a view to ensure consistency while maintaining the quality of each of the assessments.

Thus, the Plenary approved to:

- undertake regional and sub-regional assessments according to generic scoping and scoping for each of four regions as revised by IPBES-3 contact group on Working Programme and regional groups;
- Open Oceans assessment postponed and agreed to consider it at IPBES-4, taking into account results of the final World Oceans Assessment;
- undertake an assessment of land degradation and restoration;
- initiate scoping for thematic assessments of sustainable use and Invasive Alien Species, primarily using virtual approaches;
- start scoping for a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services and to consider it at the IPBES-4.

Agenda item 6: Financial and budgetary arrangements for the Platform

a) Budget and expenditure for 2014–2018

Plenary adopted a budget for 2015 and postponed decision for expert and participant funding eligibility criteria (e.g. ODA) to IPBES-4.

b) Trust Fund

The Plenary adopted new rules for pledges made to the trust fund, the requirements for their eligibility and the procedure for write-off.

c) Technical support units

Before the IPBES-3 the Secretariat has prepared a note on institutional arrangements established to operationalize technical support.

Agenda item 7: Rules and procedures for the operation of the Platform

a) Nomination and selection of members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel

The IPBES-3 plenary elected five members from each region for a new membership of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the IPBES for a next three years.

From the WEOG region: Mark Lonsdale (Australia), Paul Leadley, Marie Roue (France), Unai Pascual (Spain) and Marie Stenseke (Sweden).

From the CEE region: Ruslan Novitsky (Belarus), Maja Vasiljevic (Croatia), Tamara Pataridze (Georgia), György Pataki (Hungary) and Gunay Erpul (Turkey).

b) Procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables

The Plenary adopted pending procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables as discussed and agreed by the IPBES-3 contact group of the Rules of Procedures.

c) Procedure for the review of the Platform

The Plenary requested a further development of a review procedure.

d) Policy and procedures for the admission of observers

Due to lack of flexibility expressed by the delegates, it was agreed not to address the two bracketed paragraphs of the document IPBES/3/13 (No 14 and No 16) during the third Plenary. The Plenary decided to use the existing interim method for the admission of observers for IPBES-4. The Bureau and the Secretariat were also asked to develop eligibility criteria for observers for consideration for the next Plenary.

e) Conflict of interest policy

The Plenary adopted the conflict of interest policy and implementation procedures.

Agenda item 8: Communications and stakeholder engagement

a) Communications and outreach strategy

The Plenary adopted Communications and outreach strategy and requested the secretariat to undertake the activities described in the initial implementation plan.

b) Stakeholder engagement strategy

The Plenary adopted the revised draft stakeholder engagement strategy for supporting the implementation of the Platform work programme and encouraged all stakeholders representing to collaborate with the Platform.

c) Guidance on strategic partnerships

After welcoming the guidance on the development of strategic partnerships, Plenary invited the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services to work with the Bureau to develop a collaborative partnership arrangement.

Agenda item 9: Institutional arrangements: United Nations collaborative partnership arrangements for the work of the Platform and its secretariat

The Plenary took note of the updated information for institutional arrangements.

Agenda item 10: Provisional agenda, date and venue of future sessions of the Plenary

IPBES-4 is planned for the beginning of 2016.

