

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We would like to thank to IPBES Secretariat, the Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel for their excellent work as well as all the supporters and donors of the process leading to IPBES 5.

In this regard contributions, which have been made by donors play crucial role in building of capacities of our region to take equal role in IPBES decision making process.

In our region, we acknowledge the critical importance and value of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the long-term human wellbeing. And we strongly believe that IPBES will realize its goals through providing scientifically based biodiversity information to policy makers. This information is now result of multidisciplinary knowledge of experts engaged in assessments, but it is also result of huge work of structuring secretariat and technical support units around the world.

In this Plenary, particularly important to Eastern Europe and Central Asia are the processes of capacity building and active involvement in preparation and reviewing of regional and global assessments. We hope the Plenary will identify the best way to continue and finish this and to plan the process for next work program.

We wish a successful and fruitful discussion to all delegations and observers to IPBES.