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**Third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder
meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform
on biodiversity and ecosystem services**
Busan, Republic of Korea, 7–11 June 2010

Busan outcome

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains conclusions and recommendations concerning an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. They are presented without formal editing.

Annex

Busan outcome

Conclusions and recommendations concerning an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

The representatives of Governments to the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, convened in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010:

1. Recall the Governing Council decision SS.XI/3 of 26 February 2010 which requested the Executive Director of UNEP to convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and further requested the Executive Director to transmit, on behalf of the Governing Council, the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high-level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter;
2. Note the outcomes of the first and the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008, and in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 9 October 2009, respectively;
3. Acknowledge the importance of terrestrial, marine and coastal, and inland waters biodiversity and ecosystem services which, while critically important for sustainable development and current and future human well-being, particularly for poverty eradication, are currently experiencing significant loss; that the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services must be strengthened at all levels; the importance of ensuring the highest quality and independence of the science made available; and the importance to enhance cooperation with relevant UN bodies and build capacity to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services;
4. Welcome the expressions of interest to support an IPBES by UNEP, UNESCO and FAO and encourage further consideration of their role by their respective governing bodies.
5. Note the interest of UNDP in IPBES, and their important role in capacity building within the UN system.
6. Having now reached agreement, as requested by the UNEP Governing Council Special Session through its decision SS.XI/3 on whether to establish an intergovernmental science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), we conclude that an intergovernmental science policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established to strengthen the science policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for

the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long term human well being and sustainable development, as follows:

- (a) Focusing on government needs and based on priorities established by the plenary, IPBES should respond to requests from Governments, including those conveyed to it by multilateral environmental agreements, related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies. The plenary should welcome inputs and suggestions from, and the participation of, United Nations bodies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies. The plenary should also encourage and take into account, as appropriate, inputs and suggestions made by relevant stakeholders, such as other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional scientific organizations, environment trust funds, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. To facilitate this, and to ensure that the work programme of IPBES is focussed and efficient, a process to receive and prioritize requests should be established by the plenary;
- (b) The new platform should identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales and to catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge by dialogues with key scientific organizations, policy makers and funding organizations, but should not directly undertake new research;
- (c) The new platform should perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which should include comprehensive global, regional and, as necessary, sub-regional assessments and thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science and as decided upon by the plenary. These assessments must be scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed, including identifying uncertainties, and there should be a clear transparent process for sharing and incorporating relevant data. The new platform should maintain a catalogue of relevant assessments, identify the need for regional and sub-regional assessments and help to catalyse support for subregional and national assessments, as appropriate;
- (d) The new platform should support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies, and where necessary to promote and catalyse their further development;
- (e) The new platform should prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest priority needs, related directly to its activities, as decided by the plenary, and catalyse financing for such capacity building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential funders;
- (f) The new platform should be established as an independent intergovernmental body administered by one or more existing United Nations organizations, agencies, funds and programmes;

(h) The plenary, which is the decision making body of the IPBES, should be open to participation by all member states of the United Nations and regional economic integration organizations. Intergovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders should participate in the plenary as observers, in accordance with the rules of procedure established by the plenary. Through its rules of procedure, the plenary should in general take decisions by consensus by government representatives.

(i) One Chair and four vice-chairs, ensuring geographic balance to be nominated and selected by Governments who are members of the plenary. Criteria and nomination process and length of service to be decided by the Plenary;

(j) A core trust fund to be allocated by the Plenary should be established to receive voluntary contributions from Governments, United Nations bodies, GEF, other intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, such as the private sector and foundations;

7.

In carrying out its work an IPBES should::

- a) Collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environment agreements and United Nations bodies, and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, to address gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication.
- b) Be scientifically independent and ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through peer review of its work and transparency in its decision making processes;
- c) Use clear, transparent and scientifically credible processes for the exchange, sharing and use of data, information and technologies from all relevant sources, including non peer-reviewed literature, as appropriate;
- d) Recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems.
- e) Provide policy relevant information but should not provide policy prescriptive advice mindful of the respective mandates of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- f) Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by its plenary;
- g) Recognize the unique biodiversity and scientific knowledge thereof within and among different regions, and also recognize the need for full and effective participation of developing countries as well as balanced regional representation and participation in its structure and work;
- h) Take an inter- and multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines including social and natural sciences;
- i) Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work;
- j) Address terrestrial, marine and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interactions.
- k) Ensure full use of national, sub-regional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate;

The efficiency and effectiveness of the IPBES will be independently reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis as decided by the plenary, and adjustments will be made as necessary.

8. Recommend that the 65th Session of the General Assembly be invited to consider the conclusions of the present meeting and take appropriate action for the establishment of an IPBES. Recommends that the UNEP Governing Council invites UNEP, in cooperation with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, continue to facilitate any ensuing process of implementing the IPBES until such time that a secretariat is established.