

Opening Statement from the group of coordinated stakeholder observers to IPBES 5

07/03/2017

Thank you chair for giving us the floor, this is Kristina Raab from the Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research (NeFo) on behalf of the group of coordinated stakeholder observers to IPBES 5.

We would like to:

EXPRESS appreciation to the Government of Germany and the IPBES Secretariat for providing an opportunity for consultation prior to and during this fifth plenary meeting of IPBES and for the opportunity for broader engagement with the stakeholder community via webcast.

THANK the secretariat for inviting the Open-Ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders to facilitate the Stakeholder Day prior to IPBES-5 and look forward to continued close collaboration.

NOTE that the participants of the Stakeholder Day discussed a variety of items of the work programme and will provide the results of these discussions for consideration by the plenary and contact groups.

EXPRESS appreciation for the progress IPBES has made in the last intersessional period to advance the work programme, and for the ongoing direct involvement of numerous members of the stakeholder communities.

WELCOME the extension of the IPBES Fellowship programme and call for the full recognition of fellows as authors.

CALL for additional support by Member States regarding the engagement of knowledge holders in the work programme.

RECOGNIZE the new draft for the review of the platform. We see two characteristics as essential for maximising the value of the review in guiding IPBES: timing with respect to the decision on the 2nd work programme and independence of the external review.

PROPOSE to include the evaluation of the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy as an explicit part of the review.

WELCOME the progress of the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and look forward to further collaborations.

HIGHLIGHT that stakeholder engagement is essential for communication and outreach, and is fundamental to ensure broader contributions to all other aspects of the work programme.

REQUEST that open-ended networks of IPBES stakeholders be permitted to use the acronym IPBES in their name and in their communications.

Thank you chair.