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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services****Eighth session**

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Executive Secretary on progress in the
implementation of the rolling work programme up to
2030****Procedure for the recognition of open-ended networks of
stakeholders by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform
on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services****Note by the secretariat**

1. The Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in decision IPBES-3/4, welcomed the revised stakeholder engagement strategy for supporting the implementation of the IPBES work programme set out in annex II to the decision and requested the secretariat, under the supervision of the Bureau and the Plenary and in collaboration with an open-ended network of stakeholders, to undertake the activities, as appropriate, set out in the initial implementation plan for the strategy.
2. Section III of the stakeholder engagement strategy, entitled “oversight”, states:

The stakeholder engagement strategy will be implemented and operationalized by the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, working under the supervision of the Bureau and the Plenary and in collaboration with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. The Platform encourages the self-organization of an inclusive, open-ended network of stakeholders representing their diversity, working primarily on a virtual basis. Collaboration between the Platform and the network will be guided by the stakeholder engagement strategy. A strategic partnership between the Platform and the network will specify the arrangements for this collaboration and will be subject to the approval of the Plenary.
3. At its subsequent session, in decision IPBES-4/4, section II, the Plenary took note of the progress made by the stakeholders of the Platform in, and the in-kind contributions made towards, the self-organization and structuring of an open-ended network of stakeholders; welcomed strategic partnerships between IPBES and open-ended networks of stakeholders; and requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the open-ended networks of stakeholders, undertake the activities set out in the initial implementation plan of the stakeholder engagement strategy, and finalize the institutional arrangements needed to establish such strategic partnerships.
4. The Plenary, in decision IPBES-7/1, adopted the rolling work programme of the Platform for the period up to 2030, which comprises six objectives. Objective 5 (c), relating to strengthened engagement of stakeholders, builds on the work initiated and the lessons learned during the first work programme and includes the developing and strengthening of the implementation of the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy. It states that IPBES will continue to engage with strategic partners and other stakeholders, including self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders.

* IPBES/8/1.

5. In line with section II of decision IPBES-4/4, a footnote to paragraph 15 (c) (iii) of annex I to decision IPBES-7/1, on objective 5 (c) of the rolling work programme for the period up to 2030, listed the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders as the only self-organized networks at the time of the adoption of the work programme.
6. The annex to the present note sets out, without formal editing, information on procedural matters related to the further implementation of objective 5 – specifically the process for the recognition of new self-organized networks of IPBES stakeholders, as approved by the Bureau at its fifteenth meeting.

Annex

Process for the recognition of self-organised networks of stakeholders by IPBES

A. Approach

1. There will be a ‘light-touch’, but still formalised relationship, between IPBES and networks of stakeholders wishing to engage with the Platform and its work programme on a regular basis.
2. Any such applications for recognition will therefore be considered and decided by the Bureau, on the basis of an evaluation of the application against a set of assessment criteria and a resulting recommendation by the Executive Secretary.

B. Evaluation criteria

3. The criteria against which future applications for recognition will be assessed include that the applicant network must be:

(a) Prima facie, comprised of individual and/or organisations that meet the definition of an IPBES stakeholder set out in the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy: “individual scientists and knowledge holders as well as institutions, organizations and groups working in the field of biodiversity and ecosystems services that can:

- (i) Contribute to the activities of the work programme through their experience, expertise, knowledge, data, information and capacity-building experience;
- (ii) Use or benefit from the outcomes of the work programme;
- (iii) Encourage and support the participation of scientists and knowledge holders in the work of the Platform;”

(b) Newly organized specifically for the purpose of engaging with IPBES around a common approach/purpose/set of priorities that are relevant to the work of IPBES;

(c) Sufficiently self-organized to engage effectively as a network with IPBES. Different types of networks are likely to have very different approaches to issues of membership, governance, representation etc. Given their self-organized nature, it will be at the discretion of the Bureau to decide whether each applicant network is sufficiently organised to effectively engage with IPBES;

(d) Likely to contribute significantly to the “relevance, effectiveness, credibility and overall success of the Platform” (quoted from the IPBES stakeholder engagement strategy) as an additional new network;

(e) Willing to sign acceptance, on behalf of all its members (current and future) of the following undertakings, to not:

- (i) Use the IPBES acronym in its own name in any way that implies or would lead to the inference of exclusivity (e.g. The IPBES Stakeholder Network);
- (ii) Use the IPBES logo or any variation or derivative thereof for any purpose without the express written permission of the secretariat for each use;
- (iii) Warrant, represent or imply that any product, publication, service or opinion is that of IPBES, unless it is issued by the IPBES secretariat without alteration, interpretation or elaboration;
- (iv) Enter into any agreements or contracts and to not incur any liabilities on behalf of IPBES;
- (v) Associate or imply association of IPBES with any third parties – especially those which may have a commercial or political purpose. This specifically includes association by visual branding or juxtaposition on all materials, printed, electronic and otherwise;
- (vi) Grant or imply IPBES’s endorsement of any product, publication or service;
- (vii) Bring the IPBES brand into disrepute or damage the brand.

C. Envisaged process

4. It is envisaged that a typical iteration of the process for recognition of a new self-organized network of IPBES stakeholders will encompass the following steps:

- (a) Written application by the head of the network to the Executive Secretary of IPBES, to include (but not be limited to):
 - (i) A statement that the network is newly organized specifically for the purpose of engaging with IPBES;
 - (ii) A general description of the network – including its proposed name, brief organisational history, organizational structure, current membership overview and also covering the common approach/set of priorities that are their primary reason for coalescence;
 - (iii) A motivation for wanting to engage with IPBES and the expected areas of direct engagement with the IPBES work programme;
 - (iv) A description of the expected mechanism/s for effective and regular engagement with IPBES;
 - (v) Signed acceptance on behalf of all members (current and future) of a set of standard undertakings (see above).
- (b) Evaluation by the Executive Secretary of the application on the basis of the agreed assessment criteria (see above);
- (c) Report by the Executive Secretary to the Bureau on the application, including a summary of the assessment and a recommendation;
- (d) Decision by the Bureau – MEP informed;
- (e) Written response by the Executive Secretary to the applicant network;
- (f) Plenary informed of new network recognition/s at next Plenary session as part of the Report of the Executive Secretary.

D. Implications of recognition

5. Successful application for recognition will entail, although not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- (a) Permission for the network to promote and advertise itself as a recognised self-organised network of IPBES stakeholders.
 - (b) Permission to include the IPBES acronym in the name of the network subject to specific approval by the secretariat.
 - (c) Listing on the IPBES website as a recognised self-organised network of IPBES stakeholders.
 - (d) Possibility to host a basic online presence as part of the IPBES website.
 - (e) Automatic invitation to join the organising committee of the annual IPBES Stakeholder Day/s in advance of the IPBES Plenary sessions.
 - (f) Regular tagging/mentions on IPBES social media channels (should the network be active on social media).
 - (g) An annual opportunity to message, through the secretariat, the whole IPBES email community to invite new members to join the network.
 - (h) Regular communication from the secretariat regarding key opportunities to engage with the IPBES work programme.
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