

Opening Statement from the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet) to the IPBES-9 Opening Session

03 July 2022

Thank you, Chair, for giving us the floor. This is Shivani Rai from YESS (Young Ecosystem Services Specialists) network speaking on behalf of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet) and participants attending the Stakeholder Day prior to IPBES-9.

We would like to EXPRESS our appreciation to the Government of Germany for hosting us and IPBES Secretariat for organising Stakeholder Day with ONet and IIFBES. We appreciate the hybrid format and APPEAL for more online interaction in the future.

ONet currently has 415 individual members and 18 member organizations, representing all IPBES regions.

We INVITE IPBES and member states to recognize ONet Stakeholders' commitment to contributing to IPBES 2030 Rolling Work Programme and URGE you all to financially support the participation of members from developing countries, indigenous groups, early-career researchers and the facilitation team at IPBES meetings, to comply with the IPBES Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

We ENCOURAGE IPBES to keep expanding their admirable commitment to diversity, equity, inclusiveness, and fairness, by further involving underrepresented regions, considering gender diversity, and by providing more capacity-building.

We WELCOME the establishment of quarterly meetings with the Secretariat as a means to foster active stakeholder influence through regular feedback to improve the IPBES processes.

We WELCOME the release of the Values Assessment and Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment. We HIGHLIGHT their critical role in recognising multiple worldviews, conceptualising Nature in respect to diverse values and global sustainable resource use.

We SUPPORT the Opening Statement of the IIFBES on the indispensable role of Indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge.

We STRONGLY EMPHASISE the need to increase visibility and uptake of IPBES products at multiple levels (of research, governance, and business) , from a local to a global scale , as a way to highlighting the need for knowledge on multi-scale threats to biodiversity and Nature's Contributions to People. In this regard, we URGE Member States to set up and promote the work of national and international platforms, which are best placed to engage with key regional stakeholders in their own language.

We WELCOME the steps taken by IPBES to incorporate the social sciences and humanities in its organisation and outputs. We ENCOURAGE IPBES to take further steps in reaching out to social scientific communities, recognising the inseparable unity between Nature and human communities by promoting the integration of diverse disciplines, knowledge systems and legal frameworks as well as fostering applied transdisciplinary approaches at the science-policy interface.

We WELCOME IPBES's work on the Nexus Assessment to address complex challenges and opportunities related to social-ecological interlinkages across spatial and temporal scales. We particularly WELCOME the outcomes of the IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop Report and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and CALL FOR just and fair implementation of sustainable cross-sectoral policy responses.

We SUPPORT IPBES's work on the Transformative Change Assessment to outline future pathways to foster sustainable human-nature relationships and empower fundamental, system-wide reorganisation. Therefore, we EMPHASISE the role of learning from historical perspectives on long-term environmental change for the benefit of current and future decision-making approaches.

Finally, in respect to the future implementation of the 2030 Rolling Work Programme, we ENCOURAGE IPBES to harmonize its efforts with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you, Chair!