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

Bonn, Germany, 28 August–2 September 2023

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters: election of officers**Election of officers****Note by the secretariat**

1. At its tenth session, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will be invited to elect a new Bureau. At its seventh session, held in Paris from 29 April to 4 May 2019, the Plenary elected 10 members to the Bureau for a three-year term in accordance with the rules of procedure for the Plenary as adopted in decision IPBES-1/1 and amended in decision IPBES-2/1. At its eighth session, in decision IPBES-8/2, the Plenary decided, notwithstanding rule 15 of the rules of procedure, that the term of office of the current members of the Bureau would extend until the end of the tenth session of the Plenary, with their successors elected at that session. Accordingly, the term of office of those members will end at the closure of the tenth session of the Plenary, on 2 September 2023, and the new Bureau will be elected for a three-year term from the closure of the tenth session until the election of their successors at the thirteenth session of the Plenary, tentatively scheduled for 2026.
2. At the ninth session of the Plenary, Bishwa Nath Oli (Nepal) was elected as a member of the Bureau to serve for the remainder of the term of a member from the Asia-Pacific States who had resigned from the Bureau for personal reasons in August 2021, and Vinod Bihari Mathur (India), at that time serving as a Bureau member, was elected as Vice-Chair for the Asia-Pacific States for the remainder of his term. At its ninth session, the Plenary also elected Felix Kanungwe Kalaba (Zambia) as alternate member of the Bureau from the African States.
3. As is stipulated in rule 15 of the rules of procedure for the Plenary of IPBES, the Bureau of the Plenary, consisting of the chair, four vice-chairs and five other officers, is elected from among the members of IPBES. Each of the five United Nations regions is represented by two officers in the Bureau, taking into account the principle of geographical representation.
4. Rule 15 also provides that the chair and four vice-chairs, one of whom acts as rapporteur, are to be selected with due consideration to scientific and technical expertise and from each of the five United Nations regions. In accordance with rule 22, all nominees for election as the chair and vice-chairs need to have relevant expertise as set out in the agreed guidelines. The functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of IPBES, as set out in appendix I to the resolution establishing IPBES (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, annex I), provide the following guidelines for the nomination and selection of the chair and vice-chairs:
 - (a) Ability to carry out the agreed functions of the chair and vice-chairs;

* IPBES/10/1.

- (b) Scientific expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to both natural and social sciences among the officers of the Plenary;
- (c) Scientific, technical or policy expertise and knowledge of the main elements of the programme of work of IPBES;
- (d) Experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes;
- (e) Ability both to lead and work in international scientific and policy processes.

5. The extent to which the skills of the chair and the vice-chairs complement one another might also need to be taken into consideration in the nomination and selection processes.

6. The functions of the chair are set out in the rules of procedure for the Plenary of IPBES. Paragraph 1 of rule 17 states that, in addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere in the rules of procedure, the chair:

- (a) Represents the Platform;
- (b) Declares the opening and closure of each session;
- (c) Presides at sessions of the Plenary and meetings of the Bureau;
- (d) Ensures the observance of the rules of procedure in accordance with the definitions, functions and operating principles of the Platform;
- (e) Accords participants the right to speak;
- (f) Applies the decision-making procedure in rule 36;
- (g) Rules on any points of order;
- (h) Subject to the rules of procedure, exercises complete control over the proceedings and maintains order.

7. With regard to the election of the chair, paragraph 3 of rule 15 states that the position of chair is to be rotated among the five United Nations regions every three years without the possibility of re-election as chair.

8. In accordance with rule 15, the five additional members of the Bureau are to carry out relevant administrative functions.

9. A list of nominations received by 31 May 2023 is available in document IPBES/10/INF/2. All nominations received, including late nominations, are available on the IPBES website at <https://www.ipbes.net/nomination-bureau-ipbes10-list>.

10. The Committee on Conflicts of Interest will review the conflict-of-interest declaration forms of nominees for election to the Bureau to determine their eligibility for election in accordance with rule 3 of the conflict-of-interest policy and implementation procedures adopted by the Plenary at its third session, in decision IPBES-3/3. The Committee will address related matters in its report, which will be submitted to the Plenary at least four weeks prior to its tenth session.

11. Candidates for membership of the Bureau will be nominated by the regions for subsequent election by the Plenary. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau will be elected by the Plenary by consensus unless the Plenary decides otherwise.

12. In accordance with paragraph 4 of rule 15, each region may designate alternates, to be approved by the Plenary, to represent the region at a meeting of the Bureau if their Bureau member is unable to attend.

13. Elections for members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel are scheduled for the twelfth session of the Plenary. In case a member of the Panel resigns ahead of the tenth session of the Plenary, and the member was nominated by a region for which the Plenary had not approved an alternate, the region concerned will be invited to nominate, and the Plenary to elect, a new member to serve for the remainder of the term of the member who has resigned.