



Distr.: General
29 March 2012

English only



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
Second session**

Panama City, 16–21 April 2012

Scenario note

Note by the secretariat

1. The present scenario note contains information on planning and expectations to assist representatives in preparing for and conducting discussions at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES). The meeting will be convened in order to fully operationalize the platform, in accordance with decision 26/4 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and pursuant to the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/162.

2. It was deemed necessary to convene two sessions of the plenary meeting in order to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform and thereby achieve the objective of fully operationalizing it. The first session was held in Nairobi, from 3 to 7 October 2011, where progress was made by representatives in considering the modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform. The second session of the plenary meeting will be held in Panama City from 16 to 21 April 2012, in order to conclude deliberations on the matter with a view to taking all the decisions and actions necessary for the establishment and full operationalization of the platform.

I. Organization of work

3. The second session will consist of six full days of deliberations, from Monday, 16 April 2012, to Saturday, 21 April 2012. Subject to agreement by representatives, two three-hour meetings will be held per day, the first from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the second from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Provision has been made for up to three evening meetings, should the representatives decide that they are needed. Simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations will be provided during each meeting. In addition, meeting space has been made available at the meeting venue to allow for regional consultations to take place on Sunday, 15 April 2012.

4. As agreed at the first session, the following officers elected at that session will serve as Bureau members during the second session:

Chair: Mr. Robert Watson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland),
Western European and other States

Vice-Chairs: Ms. Zena Nzibo (Kenya), African States

Mr. Atsushi Suginaka (Japan), Asian States

Ms. Senka Barudanovich (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Eastern European States

Mr. Hesiquio Benitez (Mexico), Latin American and Caribbean States

5. It is expected that one of the Vice-Chairs will act as rapporteur. Once the platform has been established, a new Bureau will need to be elected. In addition to soliciting nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the platform, representatives may wish to consider and agree on any interim arrangements that might be required until the new Bureau has been elected.
6. As the plenary meeting has been convened in accordance with Governing Council decision 26/4, based on a request by the General Assembly in resolution 65/162, the rules of procedure of the Governing Council will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of the plenary meeting.
7. All States Members of the United Nations, of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, are invited to participate fully in the meeting. The representatives of the States represented at the meeting should submit to the secretariat their credentials, issued by the Head of State or Government or the minister for foreign affairs, preferably before the meeting and no later than 24 hours after the opening of the meeting. Only those representatives accredited with the required credentials are entitled to participate in the decision-making process for procedural and substantive matters at the meeting, including participating in any voting that may take place during the meeting. United Nations bodies, funds, programmes and agencies, together with other relevant organizations, may be represented as observers.
8. It should be noted that, under rule 16 of the rules of procedure, each Government is to be represented by one accredited representative, who may be accompanied by other representatives and advisers.
9. Subject to the rules of procedure, representatives will adopt the agenda, amended as appropriate, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/1).
10. In principle, discussions are expected to take place in plenary meetings. Working or drafting groups may, however, be established, with the consent of representatives, to consider specific issues, such as legal issues relating to the establishment of the platform, and rules of procedure for meetings of the platform's plenary and work programme. Unless otherwise agreed in plenary meeting, those groups will meet outside the hours allocated to plenary meetings.
11. A report of the session will be prepared. It will contain a summary of the proceedings and, in the annexes, any outcomes of the session that the representatives may agree upon. Such outcomes might include decisions on the modalities and institutional arrangements and resolutions, as the basis for further action by IPBES or other bodies. It is expected that the report and outcomes will be considered for adoption on Saturday, 21 April 2012, after which the session will be declared closed.
12. In an effort to reduce the use of paper during the meeting, the number of hard copies of documents available will be significantly reduced and pre-session material will be made available on the IPBES website (www.ipbes.net). To that end, representatives are encouraged to bring laptop computers to the session. In-session documents will also be made available on a dedicated website; details on access to the website will be provided at the session.

II. Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

13. Information regarding the organization of deliberations at the second session of the plenary meeting, which will build on the outcomes of the first session, is set out below.

A. Work programme of the platform (agenda item 4 (a))

14. At the first session of the plenary meeting, representatives exchanged preliminary views on the platform's work programme. In addition to specific suggestions made by representatives regarding the platform's individual functions, there was general recognition that the platform's four functions should be delivered in an integrated manner through its work programme.
15. As agreed at the first session, a document outlining options for the work programme, which reflects deliberations at the first session, was circulated for an intersessional review by Governments and other stakeholders.
16. A note by the secretariat on possible elements of the work programme for the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2) was prepared on the basis of comments received through the above-mentioned intersessional review. The document outlines additional considerations that need to be taken into account when developing and implementing the platform's work programme, as well as the possible elements of a future work programme. In addition, representatives may wish to consider the

information contained in the information document on an indicative, detailed work programme for the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3), which outlines a potential initial work programme for the platform, building on the possible elements referred to in that working document.

17. The outcomes of various informal expert workshops held to inform and support discussions on the work programme might also provide useful information. In addition to other relevant information documents, the reports of the following workshops are expected to be made available on the IPBES website (www.ipbes.net):

(a) International workshop on policy support through relevant tools and methodologies in the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Bonn, Germany, from 7 to 9 December 2011;

(b) Workshop of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy – The thematic content of the first IPBES work programme, held in Copenhagen, from 16 to 18 January 2012;

(c) European Union expert meeting on peer review procedures in IPBES and procedures for election of authors, editors and reviewers in IPBES, held in Copenhagen, from 19 to 20 January 2012;

(d) Scientific expert workshop on the development of potential work programme elements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Annapolis, United States of America, from 31 January to 2 February 2012;

(e) Second science workshop on assessment and the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Tokyo, from 27 to 29 February 2012.

18. In addition, representatives may wish to refer to a draft communication and outreach strategy that has been developed by United Nations agencies for the initial stages of IPBES (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/4).

19. On the basis of the information provided through the above-mentioned documents, representatives may wish to consider and make recommendations on possible elements of the work programme for the platform. The outcome of this agenda item might include an agreement on the scope of the platform's work programme, an initial exchange of ideas on a detailed work programme and an agreement on the next steps required for the development of the platform's work programme.

B. Functions and structures of bodies that might be established under the platform (agenda item 4 (b))

20. After discussing the work programme for the platform, representatives may wish to consider the note by the secretariat on the functions and structures of bodies that might be established under the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3), which reflects the deliberations at the first session of the plenary meeting.

21. At the first session, representatives deliberated on the functions of bodies that might be established under the platform. Representatives may wish to further consider and then determine the functions, structure and composition of subsidiary bodies to be established under the platform. Options relating to working groups under the platform may also be considered, by reflecting the discussion of the platform's work programme.

22. In their discussions, representatives may also wish to take into consideration the information document entitled "Analysis of the possible institutional arrangements envisaged in the Busan outcome, with the structures and functions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and related recommendations of the InterAcademy Council" (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/8), made available at the first session.

23. The outcome of this agenda item might be an agreement on the composition and functions of the plenary and the subsidiary bodies required for the effective and efficient functioning of the platform, including their functions, structure and composition.

C. Rules and procedures (agenda item 4 (c))

24. At the first session of the plenary meeting, representatives exchanged initial views on the rules of procedure for meetings of the platform's plenary. Governments and other stakeholders were then invited to participate in an intersessional review process, where they were requested to submit their proposals regarding the document presented to the first session entitled "Rules of procedure for the platform's plenary" (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/5).

25. Representatives may also wish to consider the note by the secretariat on “Rules of procedure for the meetings of the platform’s plenary” (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4), which contains comments provided by Governments and other stakeholders through the intersessional review process mentioned above, including their proposals for other procedures for the platform’s operations. Representatives may wish to consider and then determine the rules of procedure of the platform’s plenary, especially those that are necessary for initiating the operation of the platform, including those regarding the process for the nomination and selection of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the platform’s plenary, as well as procedures for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the platform.

26. Under this agenda item, following the deliberations at the first session, representatives may wish to further discuss and determine the membership of the platform’s plenary, the participation of representatives of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the functions of the plenary. An options paper for the involvement of civil society organizations in an intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/6) may also provide supplementary information to assist in deliberations on this agenda item.

27. On the basis of the comments provided by Governments and other stakeholders on proposed additional procedures for the platform’s plenary, representatives may also wish to consider and determine additional procedures that will need to be developed for the operation of the platform, including agreement on the modalities for any next steps that might be required to develop additional rules of procedure for the platform.

28. Discussions on additional procedures for the platform are expected to build on discussions and agreements reached on the scope of the platform’s work programme. The rules of procedure might be supplemented by additional sets of rules or guidance to govern the meetings of other bodies of the platform and working groups, for example.

29. Once the hosting arrangements for the platform’s secretariat have been identified, financial rules and procedures will also need to be agreed for the administration and management of the platform’s trust fund. Rules and procedures to regulate the periodic independent review and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the platform might also be considered at a later stage, in accordance with the Busan outcome.

30. The outcome of this agenda item might be an agreement on the rules of procedure of the platform’s plenary and additional procedures that need to be developed for the operation of the platform, and modalities to finalize those procedures, including any next steps that might be required to develop additional procedures for the platform.

D. Physical location of the platform’s secretariat (agenda item 4 (d))

31. At the first session of the plenary meeting, representatives discussed and agreed upon the process and elements that might be considered in selecting the physical location of the platform’s secretariat. Consequently, interested Governments were invited to submit their offers to provide the physical location of the platform’s secretariat for consideration at the second session.

32. In this regard, representatives may wish to consider a note by the secretariat that contains the executive summaries of offers submitted to the Chair of the Bureau by the Governments of France, Germany, India, Kenya and the Republic of Korea to provide the physical location of the secretariat of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/5). The full text of the offers, in English only, may be found in document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/5/Add.1.

33. Under this agenda item, representatives may wish to agree on the process and procedures to determine the physical location of the platform’s secretariat, which might include a voting process by States present at the meeting with valid credentials. According to the agreed process and procedures, the five Governments listed above (see para. 32) might be invited to each make a 10-minute presentation to introduce their offers for the physical location of the platform’s secretariat. Representatives may wish to consider these offers made by Governments and, in so doing, take into account the elements that might be considered in selecting the physical location of the platform’s secretariat as contained in annex III to the report of the first session (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8), with a view to determining the physical location of the platform’s secretariat during the second session of the plenary meeting.

E. Host institution or institutions (agenda item 4 (e))

34. At the first session of the plenary meeting, representatives discussed and agreed upon the process and elements that might be considered in selecting the host institution or institutions of the platform’s secretariat. Consequently, they invited interested United Nations organizations, agencies,

funds and programmes to submit proposals and, in particular, invited the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to submit a joint proposal for hosting the secretariat.

35. In this regard, representatives may wish to consider the joint proposal submitted to the Chair of the Bureau by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to host the platform's secretariat (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/6).

36. The representatives may wish to discuss the information presented therein and, in so doing, take into account the elements that might be considered in selecting the host institution or institutions of the platform's secretariat as contained in annex III to the report of the first session (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8), with a view to providing further guidance to the above-mentioned United Nations bodies in respect of their proposals to provide the administrative hosting arrangements for the platform's secretariat and supporting the platform's operationalization.

F. Budget (agenda item 4 (f))

37. Having considered the possible work programme for the platform as well as the structure of the platform and the physical location and the institutional arrangements of the platform's secretariat, representatives may wish to discuss the information contained in a note by the secretariat on indicative budget requirements for the administration and implementation of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/7). The representatives may also wish to consider financing options, including potential contributions to the platform from Governments represented at the meeting, to determine the availability of resources for the platform's budget. In this regard, Governments that are in a position to provide potential contributions to the platform are encouraged to express their intention to do so during the discussions on this agenda item.

38. Representatives may wish to discuss the information provided with a view to determining a possible initial budget for the platform.

G. Legal issues relating to the establishment and operationalization of the platform (agenda item 4 (g))

39. At the first session, representatives discussed legal issues relating to the platform's establishment and operationalization and expressed their views regarding both the process by which the platform would be established and the platform's status.

40. Further to the deliberations at the first session of the plenary meeting, representatives may wish to consider a note by the secretariat on legal issues relating to the establishment and operationalization of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/8) and the options outlined in the annexes thereto, which set out legal advice from the Office of Legal Affairs (see also UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/14) and a supplementary legal opinion of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (see also UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/9). Representatives may also wish to refer to the information contained in an information document on the potential road map of options for the association of the platform with the United Nations system (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/5).

41. On the basis of the information provided in the above-mentioned documents, representatives may wish to determine the legal basis of the platform. Representatives may also wish to consider adopting a resolution on the way forward regarding the institutional arrangements that might be put into place in parallel with the operationalization of the platform.

III. Outcomes of the meeting and the way forward

42. Before the adoption of any decisions, recommendations and resolutions, and in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP, the credentials of Government representatives participating in the meeting will be examined by the Bureau. The Bureau will report on the outcome of its examination on the morning of Saturday, 21 April 2012.

43. Having considered the above matters, and with due attention having been paid to the report of the Bureau on credentials, representatives may wish to consider adopting decisions, recommendations and resolutions that determine the modalities and institutional arrangements of the platform on the basis of the deliberations during the session, and the report of the meeting, which will be based on a draft prepared by the rapporteur. Following agreement on the modalities and institutional arrangements, representatives may wish to establish the platform and agree on any further process required to operationalize the platform, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 65/162.

Annex

Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services: second session

Provisional timetable

Saturday, 14 April		
Time	Work	Documents
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	African regional consultations	All documents
Sunday, 15 April		
Time	Work	Documents
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Africa regional consultations (<i>continued</i>)	All documents
p.m.	Asia and the Pacific regional consultations	
TBA	Eastern Europe regional consultations	
TBA	Latin America and the Caribbean regional consultations	
TBA	Western Europe and others regional consultations	
9 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.	IPBES Stakeholder Day	
DAY 1, Monday, 16 April		
Time	Work	First meeting Documents
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 1: Opening of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Opening remarks by the Executive Director's representative □ Welcoming remarks by Government of Panama 	
10.30 a.m.– 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 2: Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Introduction by the Chair (recap of previous session) □ Schedule of work □ Conduct of work 	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/1 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/1/Add.1
12.30 p.m.– 1p.m.	Agenda item 3: Presentation of credentials	

DAY 1, Monday, 16 April		
Time	Work	Second meeting Documents
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (a): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: work programme of the platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Introduction by the secretariat □ General discussion 	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/7 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/2 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3
DAY 2, Tuesday, 17 April		
Time	Work	Third meeting Documents
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (b): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: functions and structures of bodies that might be established under the platform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Introduction by the secretariat/Chair on agreement reached at the first session and on outstanding issues 	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3
DAY 2, Tuesday, 17 April		
Time	Work	Fourth meeting Documents
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (c): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: rules and procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Introduction by the secretariat/Chair on the discussion at the first session, intersessional process and outstanding issues 	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4
DAY 3, Wednesday, 18 April		
Time	Work	Fifth meeting Documents
10 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	Agenda Item 4 (d): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: physical location of the platform's secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Introduction by the secretariat on the discussion at the first session, intersessional process and outstanding issues 	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/5 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/5/Add.1
10.15a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Presentations by the proponents for the physical location of the secretariat	
11.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	Chair's summary and the next required steps regarding the physical location of the secretariat	
DAY 3, Wednesday, 18 April		
Time	Work	Sixth meeting Documents
3 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Agenda Item 4 (e): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: host institution of institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Introduction by the secretariat on the discussion at the first session, intersessional process and outstanding issues 	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/6

4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Agenda Item 4 (f): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: budget □ Introduction by the secretariat	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/7
Time	DAY 4, Thursday, 19 April Work	Seventh meeting Documents
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda Item 4 (a): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: work programme of the platform (<i>continued</i>)	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/7 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/2 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3
Time	DAY 4, Thursday, 19 April Work	Eighth meeting Documents
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Agenda Item 4 (c): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: rules and procedures (<i>continued</i>)	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4
Time	DAY 4, Thursday, 19 April Work	Ninth meeting Documents
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	Agenda Item 4 (d): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: physical location of the platform’s secretariat (<i>continued</i>)	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/5 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/5/Add.1
Time	DAY 5, Friday, 20 April Work	Tenth meeting Documents
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda Item 4 (b): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: functions and structures of bodies that might be established under the platform (<i>continued</i>)	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3
Time	DAY 5, Friday, 20 April Work	Eleventh meeting Documents
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Agenda Item 4 (g): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: legal issues relating to the establishment and operationalization of the platform □ Introduction by the secretariat	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/8
Time	DAY 5, Friday, 20 April Work	Twelfth meeting Documents
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	Evening session (if required)	

DAY 6, Saturday, 21 April		
Time	Work	Thirteenth meeting Documents
10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Agenda Item 4 (g): Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES: legal issues relating to the establishment and operationalization of the platform <i>(continued)</i>	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/8
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Final consideration of the work programme Final consideration of the rules and procedures	UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/7 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/2 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/3 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4
DAY 6, Saturday, 21 April		
Time	Work	Fourteenth meeting Documents
3 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Agenda Item 5: Adoption of recommendations and decisions	
4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda Item 6: Adoption of the report	
5.30p.m. – 6 p.m.	Agenda Item 7: Closure of the session <input type="checkbox"/> Closing remarks by the Executive Director’s representative <input type="checkbox"/> Closing remarks by the Chair	