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**United Nations
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**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

**Joint statement from the fifth meeting of the Chairs of the
Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a joint statement from the fifth meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), held in Dublin, on 25 March 2012. The conventions include the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The annex is presented as received from CSAB and has not been formally edited.

Annex

Joint statement resulting from the 5th meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB)*(Dublin, 25 March 2012)

The chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions¹, meeting together with the Secretariats of the Conventions, at their 5th meeting in Dublin reiterate their support for the establishment of the IPBES, and highlight again the potential for the IPBES, once operational, to contribute to increasing synergies amongst the conventions and to achieving the conservation and sustainable use of and equitable benefits from biodiversity.

We note with satisfaction the positive progress towards operationalization of the IPBES since the Busan meeting, and are pleased to see that the roles and needs of the Conventions are reflected in several preparatory documents for the Panama IPBES meeting. As evidenced in several recent decisions, conclusions or reports of various governing bodies and subsidiary bodies (see document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/2), the conventions are engaging strongly with the IPBES establishment process.

The Conventions have an important role in setting the global agenda on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and in that context their governing bodies are key policy-making bodies which can direct requests to and benefit from IPBES. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets provide a common “currency” around which the conventions can co-ordinate and collaborate. The scientific advisory bodies of the Conventions can provide useful and policy-relevant information to the work of the IPBES and their decision-making can be assisted by IPBES outputs. The work of the IPBES at the sub-global level and the implementation of the conventions at regional and national levels can and should be mutually supportive, strengthening the application of science at these levels and thereby implementation of the conventions.

Without prejudice to the possible efforts by any Convention to develop a particular model for engaging individually with the IPBES in future or governments’ negotiations on the details of the institutional structures and procedures within the IPBES, and noting that the Conventions do not all have the same mandates from their governing bodies, we wish to make the following contributions to the discussions in Panama in the hope that we can contribute to the effective operation of the IPBES in future:

- The Conventions’ governing and subsidiary bodies, including their scientific advisory bodies (and their associated agreements), can provide knowledge networks, information and data and expertise.
- The scientific advisory bodies and secretariats, either individually or through the CSAB, could potentially:
 - facilitate identification of priority issues of common concern which might become joint proposals/requests from Convention governing bodies to the IPBES;
 - identify issues which are in the Conventions’ respective work programmes and co-ordinate those issues which have aspects that are common to several Conventions;
 - assist in scoping of responses by IPBES to requests from Convention governing bodies helping to avoid duplication and to enhance collaboration;
 - participate in reviews of IPBES products.

¹ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

- It is important to ensure that the process for receiving and prioritizing requests allows clear, timely and predictable responses to requests from the Conventions.
- The IPBES needs to recognize the special role of Conventions (and their associated agreements) in its work programme, since they already represent views of Contracting Party governments. The IPBES should also recognize the roles of the Conventions as policy-making and policy implementation bodies.
- The IPBES should recognize the roles of Conventions as source of distinctive scientific knowledge and advice to the Contracting Parties, through the work of their scientific bodies.
- The IPBES meeting in Panama should give particular consideration to and agree on how Conventions (secretariats/governing bodies as well as science advisory bodies) are represented in or participate in different bodies of IPBES, including plenary and subsidiary bodies. The meeting should also give consideration to how CSAB or the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) could participate in the different bodies of the IPBES.
- IPBES focal points at national level (if they are established) should co-ordinate with Convention focal points at national level.
- Capacity building is an important activity for the Conventions already, especially at subglobal level, and in its work programme on capacity building the IPBES should work closely with existing Convention processes for capacity building to ensure coherence and avoid duplication.
- A more general point is that IPBES must draw existing processes together to improve consistency and complementarity, and work to avoid introducing another level of complexity to existing Convention processes and activities.

The chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the Conventions have agreed to convey the following suggestions to their governing bodies.

We note that it is especially important for delegates representing their governments at IPBES meetings, including the IPBES plenary to co-ordinate with focal points of the Conventions in-country, to ensure that the needs of the individual Conventions at national level are adequately reflected and considered in the IPBES discussions. This is of particular significance in preparation for the Panama meeting, but should be ongoing in future.

We also commit to facilitating discussions within the processes of the various Conventions with a view to;

- (a) giving consideration to the internal procedures (which may be similar across Conventions) for preparation and submission of requests individually to the IPBES, especially to clarify the roles of their governing bodies and their scientific bodies; and
- (b) how they prepare and submit joint requests to IPBES on issues of common concern/interest, and what roles the Secretariats, the BLG and the CSAB can play in developing joint requests to the IPBES. We are committed to working with the Convention secretariats to enhance the contribution of the CSAB and the individual scientific advisory bodies of the Conventions in order for them to interface as effectively as possible with the IPBES work programme.
