

1 Malaysia’s Statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific region, IPBES-4

2 22February 2016

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4 Mr. Chair, thank you very much for the opportunity to take the floor.
5 Firstly, representing Malaysia, Malaysia wishes to welcome all my
6 fellow delegates to this plenary with a warm “Selamat Datang” or
7 welcome in our national language. We wish you a good stay and a very
8 productive meeting here in Kuala Lumpur. We note that we have a very
9 tight agenda in front of us, but we hope you do take some time to enjoy
10 our Malaysian hospitality, our glorious variety of food, wonderful
11 culture, highly acclaimed sights and most of all our rich biodiversity.

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13 Mr. Chairman, I am taking the floor on behalf of the Asia-Pacific region.

14 Professor Dr. Zakri, through your excellent chairmanship as the
15 founding Chairman over the years, we would like to take the
16 opportunity today to show our appreciation or gratitude. We
17 acknowledge your passion in the establishment of IPBES and its
18 achieving its vision in the years to come. Now, I would like to mention a
19 few agenda items that will be of particular concern to the Asia-Pacific
20 region. We shall in the course of this week give further views on these
21 agenda items as they are tabled.

22 Amongst them, the plenary will be deliberating our first two thematic
23 assessments:

- 24 I. the final thematic assessment report on pollinators, pollination
25 and food production (deliverable 3 (a)), including a technical
26 report and a summary for policymakers; and

27 II. the final methodological assessment report on scenarios and
28 models of biodiversity and ecosystem services (deliverable 3 (c)),
29 including a technical report and a summary for policymakers.
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31 We wish to congratulate the Platform for getting these deliverables to
32 this final stage on time and in place for the consideration of the
33 Platform. Both deliverables once accepted by the Platform will be able
34 to demonstrate the significance of our work to policy makers,
35 governments and all stakeholders. We hope these deliverables will be
36 used by policy makers and governments to bridge the science-policy
37 interface which forms the very foundation of IPBES.
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39 The Asia Pacific region stands prepared to support the process and we
40 are here to facilitate the approval of these two important assessments
41 and in our deliberations this week. We hope our inputs to this process
42 will further improve the already excellent document before us.
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44 The Asia-Pacific region has been very active in all the deliverables. We
45 wish to highlight the good work by the technical support unit (TSU) on
46 knowledge and data hosted by the Republic of Korea and the TSU on
47 the Asia Pacific regional assessment hosted by Japan.
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49 We hope these taskforces can also be established for other deliverables
50 under the platform such as the assessment on the invasive alien
51 species.
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53 Chair, we highly appreciate the work on capacity-building (deliverables
54 1(a) and 1(b)). The task force has developed the framework for the
55 outcome of the deliverables. Recognising that young people will be the
56 key to future of our planet, we are particularly happy with the
57 fellowship programme provided for 33 young or early career fellows for
58 the four regional assessments and the thematic assessment on land
59 degradation and restoration. Young people are the key to future of our
60 planet and we are very impressed with these young fellows. In many
61 instances, we find that they are experts themselves and often bring in
62 many good and noble ideas in the discussions during the development
63 of the assessments.

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65 We wish to thank India for hosting the IPBES Capacity-building Forum in
66 2015, the output from this meeting has now been forwarded to this
67 plenary and we believe will contribute significantly towards the
68 outcome of deliverables 1(a) and 1(b). There is a huge amount of
69 information and possibilities for capacity building identified and
70 documented in the forum in Dehradun, India should be further
71 followed up so we can maximize the output from that meeting.

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73 We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and
74 appreciate the work of the bureau, the MEP and the secretariat for
75 moving forward the deliverables of this platform.

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77 Chair, we are also confident the regional assessment for the Asia-Pacific
78 region is progressing well, although there is much work to be done.

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80 Finally, we once again wish all of you a productive meeting in this
81 vibrant city of Kuala Lumpur which is known for its magical way to
82 foster consensus building.

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84 Thank you chair.