



## **DRAFT Speaking Note**

### **Opening statement**

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ms. Executive Secretary, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As this is the first time that we are taking the floor, I would like to explain that the Netherlands currently holds the presidency of the EU Council. Therefore The Netherlands will speak on behalf of the EU Member States that are members of IPBES. At the moment 20 EU member states are members of the platform.

The EU Members of IPBES are highly appreciative of the huge amount of work undertaken by the secretariat, MEP and Bureau and all experts to implement the agreed Work Program of 2014-2018. The true dedication of these bodies has ensured meeting very high standards and tight deadlines.

We would also like to acknowledge all kinds of financial and in-kind support provided by different parties to IPBES so far. To ensure successful continuation of the implementation of the work programme we should continue to support activities. This includes the provision of financial and in-kind support and establishment of partnerships to build capacity.

At this meeting IPBES is going to set a milestone. As members we have the responsibility to approve the Summaries for Policy makers of the first two assessments of the Platform: the thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production and the methodological assessment on scenarios and models. We believe that the outcomes will be an important basis for the further development of policies and measures in order to reach biodiversity goals.

These outcomes will offer all kind of outreach possibilities. It is our recommendation that the IPBES secretariat but also individual members of the platform take advantage of this momentum and engage in outreach for the work of IPBES through the appropriate channels.

The EU Members of IPBES are of the opinion that the foreseen work on the global assessment is of the highest importance for the Platform. The outcome of the assessment should be a very relevant component of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, that is planned to be performed by the CBD in 2019. This will be the basis for the strategic discussion on further action in the field of biodiversity for the next decade.

The EU Members of IPBES are committed to solving the outstanding issue of the membership of the regional economic integration organizations in the rules of procedure. We believe that full membership of the EU would add considerable value to the work of IPBES, and we would like to explore ways of solving the issue.

We come with a spirit of cooperation, and we look forward to working with all Parties, who by their presence here, demonstrate a collective shared interest and commitment to IPBES.