

Titel der Rede/Anlass	Opening address at the 5th IPBES plenary session
Rednerin	Dr Christiane Paulus, Deputy Director-General for Nature Conservation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
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Rededauer	5 Minuten

DRAFT

Sir Robert Watson [*chair*],
Madam Executive Secretary, Ms Larigauderie [*Executive Secretary*],
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The German government is honoured that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is meeting again in Bonn for the fifth plenary session. We value your trust in Germany as the headquarters of the Secretariat, now hosting the plenary session for the third time. We will remain strongly committed to the work of the platform.

At the beginning of last year, IPBES took a decisive step onto the stage of the international scientific community with the adoption of its first two assessment reports.

IPBES completed two comprehensive global reports of high scientific quality in record time. I feel that by doing so, the platform has fully lived up to our expectations.

The findings of these two reports are not only key to the implementation of our national biodiversity strategies; they are also instrumental in the

implementation process of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and many of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

IPBES assessments will also significantly contribute to the follow-up process to the CBD Strategic Plan after 2020. We are therefore very much looking forward to the reports on the regional status of biodiversity and the IPBES "masterpiece", the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is very important that concrete steps toward implementation follow on the recommendations for actions in the IPBES assessments. A first step was taken at COP13 in Cancun last December on the initiative of the Netherlands, following up on the adoption of the thematic assessment of pollinators, pollination and food production. Thirteen countries founded the **coalition of the willing on pollinators**, committing to the protection of pollinators based on the action recommendations in the IPBES assessment.

The coalition of the willing on pollinators is committed to:

- taking action to protect pollinators and their habitats,
- sharing experience and lessons learnt,
- reaching out to seek collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders,
- developing research on pollinator conservation, and
- fostering mutual support and collaboration.

This new coalition garnered great interest at the CBD Conference of the Parties. It is open to all interested countries, and I warmly invite you all to join this initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During this fifth plenary session, we will also begin the process of drawing up a second work programme for IPBES. With this, we will be charting a course for the platform's work over a long period of time. This is why it is important that we build on our experiences from the first work programme. The second work programme must also, in particular, take into account the limitations on financial resources and personnel. Beyond this, it should be flexible enough to assist the follow-up process to the CBD's Strategic Plan after 2020 and to address new and emerging issues.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The current critical financial situation at IPBES is a great concern for us. The financial commitments to date do not even cover the ongoing IPBES assessments, let alone those that have yet to be launched due to underfinancing. I therefore urge you all to acknowledge the valuable work of IPBES and its scientists and to continue to financially support the platform. I am pleased to be able to announce here today that Germany will continue its active support of IPBES and will pay 1.1 million US dollars into the trust fund for 2017.

Ladies and gentlemen,

IPBES is making excellent progress. Please maintain this valuable momentum and take decisions this week that enable the platform to reach its full potential.

Thank you very much!