

Grusswort für Bürgermeister Reinhard Limbach anlässlich der Eröffnung von IPBES-5, der 5. Plenarversammlung des Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services am Dienstag, 7 März 2017, 09.45 – 10.45 Uhr, WCCB

Mr. Chairman, Sir Robert Watson,

Dr. Larigauderie,

Esteemed Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Mayor Ashok Sridharan, who is attending the farewell visit of Federal President Gauck today, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the participants of this fifth Plenary session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Let me say that Bonn is very proud to host IPBES, which forms an important part of what has become a true powerhouse of sustainability!

This powerhouse features 19 UN organizations shaping a sustainable future from here. Key players in the fields of government, development cooperation, business and academia, media and NGOs are actively supporting these endeavors. And the City of Bonn itself has become an active partner in many initiatives and processes.

The important work that IPBES is doing contributes towards the credibility of decision-makers around the globe. It provides

indispensable scientific evidence for governments, the private sector and civil society alike, by drawing on scientific research and on a range of alternative knowledge systems to reflect a broad range of views.

IPBES has proven to be a valuable interface between science and policy-making. IPBES strives to place biodiversity at the heart of sustainable development. In order to do so, IPBES will need to build bridges between different agendas, such as between the biodiversity and climate change agenda, a focus of your keynote talks this morning.

Bringing these various agendas together will represent one exciting challenge for the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, to be delivered in 2019. This assessment will provide policy-relevant data and policy options, as significant support to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation.

Bonn is clearly fertile ground for global development and a great platform for debates and cooperation in the field of sustainability. I would even go so far as to call the city itself an interface. In our international city on the Rhine, global agendas are brought together at all levels.

The Bonn Science Network BION, for instance, is currently running a regional biodiversity assessment and preparing a symposium on the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day. BION unites more than 40 institutes and organizations that are active in interdisciplinary biodiversity research.

Our Mayor is also the First Vice President of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and Bonn has been engaging with their Biodiversity Programme since 2007.

2017 will offer huge opportunities for sustainability and for Bonn! Our city will be welcoming the 23rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention. COP 23 will be a fine occasion to bring together some major agendas here. Since the finalization of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, the world is increasingly reflecting on the interfaces between topics and organizations. Bonn seems to be the perfect place to catalyze this beneficial process towards sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I know that this 5th session of the IPBES Plenary will be a forum filled with the fruitful exchange of knowledge and will lead to even further scientific excellence! May

it be a true interface between topics, structures, disciplines and policy-making!

And may it help us to streamline our efforts towards a sustainable future for our planet!

By the way, should you have some spare time in Bonn, I would like to invite you to explore our beautiful city on the Rhine with its colorful history, its rich cultural life and stunning nature!

Thank you!