

Thank you Chair,

Colombia is speaking on behalf of GRULAC. GRULAC would like to thank the Secretariat of IPBES, bureau and M EP members for the preparation of this meeting and for the enormous amount of work since last Session Period, also GRULAC would like to thank the government and people of Germany for their hospitality in this beautiful city.

GRULAC welcomes the progress in deliverable 1d on procedures, approaches and participatory processes to include indigenous and local knowledge system into the outcomes of the Platform.

Also we recognize the progress in regional and global assessments and capacity building activities, encouraging the Secretariat and all member states to consider our special interest in the strengthening of training initiatives focused on the use of different tools and policy tools and methodologies. Nevertheless, there are also other pending issues that have to be addressed in the framework of our program of work 2014-2018 as agreed in Antalya.

In that sense, we are concerned about the lack of financial support to carry on all thematic assessments in current work programme, So it is urgent that the Platform and in particular the Secretariat and the Chair to actively implement an effective fundraising strategy.

For GRULAC the sustainable use of biodiversity assessment is the first priority of pending thematic assessments, as well as an outstanding opportunity to link IPBES with other multilateral agreements like CBD, CITES, FAO, among others. The assessments on invasive alien species and values are also relevant topics to our countries. In that sense, GRULAC cannot be agree with the recommendation to postpone these assessments and they must begin as soon as possible.

The GRULAC also wants to highlight the contributions from our region such as the establishment of two TSUs (Americas in Colombia and Values in Mexico), the active participation of our experts in MEP, task forces and assessments, and hosting meetings.

Regarding the selection process for experts, we request the Secretariat to inform timely to the National Focal Points whether the official nominations were accepted and to provide, in a transparent manner, including by attaching a complete list of selected experts, why there is a need to complement those by additional nominations for filling gaps.

GRULAC firmly believes that no new themes should be considered until the current Program of Work is completed. Honouring Antalya Agreements will certainly contribute to increase the visibility, impact and credibility of the Platform.

Finally, the GRULAC expresses its commitment to continue contributing and strengthening IPBES.