

Chair's note on possible additional elements that may support the Plenary in developing a decision on the report on the review of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at the conclusion of its first work programme

A brief, general draft decision on the review of IPBES at the conclusion of its first work programme is set out in the note by the Executive Secretary on draft decisions for the seventh session of the Plenary of IPBES, document IPBES/7/1/Add.2.

This informal Chair's note sets out possible elements for responses by the Plenary to the specific recommendations by the review panel contained in the report on the review of IPBES at the conclusion of its first work programme (see documents IPBES/7/5 and IPBES/7/INF/18). The informal note has been prepared by the Chair of IPBES under his own responsibility, on the basis of the response to the report by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau (IPBES/7/INF/19).

As set out in the annotations to the provisional agenda, it is proposed that the Plenary organize its work at the session in two working groups, one of them (working group II) considering item 8 on the review of IPBES at the conclusion of its first work programme and item 9 on the next work programme of IPBES. The draft elements contained in this note are offered to facilitate the consideration of the review report by the Plenary and, if established, working group II, and do not prejudice the work of the Plenary or the working group.

The following draft decision is set out in document IPBES/7/1/Add.2, section I:

The Plenary,

Welcoming the report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the first work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,¹

Acknowledging with appreciation the outstanding contributions made by all experts involved in the implementation of the first work programme of the Platform, and thanking them and their institutions for their unwavering commitment thereto,

Recalling its decision IPBES-5/2, in which it approved the terms of reference for the review of the Platform at the conclusion of its first work programme,

Also recalling its decision IPBES-6/1, section VIII, in which it took note of the report prepared by the internal review team,²

1. *Takes note of* the activities undertaken to implement the recommendations from the report prepared by the internal review team;³

2. *Welcomes* the report on the review of the Platform at the conclusion of its first work programme by the review panel,⁴

3. *Also welcomes* the response by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau⁵ and the response by the Executive Secretary⁶ to the report referred to in paragraph 2 above;

4. *Requests* the Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Executive Secretary, as appropriate, to take the recommendations made by the review panel⁷ into account in the implementation of the work programme of the Platform up to 2030 and to inform the Plenary at its eighth session on the progress made.

¹ IPBES/7/2.

² IPBES/6/INF/32.

³ IPBES/7/INF/17.

⁴ IPBES/7/INF/18.

⁵ IPBES/7/INF/19.

⁶ IPBES/7/INF/20.

⁷ See IPBES/7/5.

Recommendations by the External Review Panel	<i>The following elements could be considered in the development of a more comprehensive draft decision on the review report, in addition to the draft decision as presented in document IPBES/7/1/Add.2 (see above)</i>
Origins, conceptualization and positioning of IPBES	I Matters pertaining to the conceptualization and positioning of the Platform
(1 and 2): IPBES needs a clearly defined, agreed and clearly articulated vision, mission and adaptive strategy, where the four functions of IPBES are seen and managed as an integrated set.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Underscores</i> that a clearly defined and articulated vision, mission and adaptive strategy for the Platform would complement its work programme and facilitate an integrated implementation of its four functions related to knowledge generation, assessments, capacity-building, and policy support, which together with communications and outreach activities advance the science-policy interface and <i>requests</i> the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, supported by the secretariat, to develop a draft vision, mission and strategy for consideration by the Plenary at its eighth session;
(3 and 4): IPBES should develop a clearer, more strategic and strengthened approach to stakeholders and partnerships, allowing for differentiation of status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recalls</i> the establishment of four different categories of partners for the Platform in accordance with the guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements: (i) the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme;⁸ (ii) memoranda of cooperation between the secretariat and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services established in accordance with decision IPBES-4/4, section III; (iii) a limited set of strategic partners that have a direct collaboration with IPBES; and (iv) a larger set of “collaborative supporters”, who support the Platform, through their own work, and <i>resolves</i> to further advance this strategic approach as part of the work programme of the Platform up to 2030;
Governance, structure and procedures	II Matters pertaining to governance, structure and procedures of the Platform
(5): The exact legal status of IPBES should be clarified and communicated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Requests</i> the secretariat to give further prominence to the reflection of the legal status of the Platform on its web-site;
(6 and 10): Modalities and procedures should be re-examined in order to achieve an appropriate segregation of duties and ensure scientific independence, with a more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recalls</i> the operating principle of the Platform to be scientifically independent and ensure credibility, relevance, and legitimacy through peer review of its work and transparency in its decision-making

⁸ Decision IPBES-2/6, annex.

<p>Governance, structure and procedures</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">II Matters pertaining to governance, structure and procedures of the Platform</p>
<p>streamlined governance architecture. For example, Bureau and MEP should not be involved in the preparation of the SPM to ensure it is not politicized.</p>	<p>processes,⁹ and <i>requests</i> the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, supported by the secretariat, to prepare for consideration by the Plenary at its eighth session an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of the current arrangements for the Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and their relation to other bodies of the Platform, versus alternative options for a more streamlined governance architecture, including by considering the work load on the secretariat, financial implications, effectiveness, size and roles and responsibilities of those involved in advancing the science-policy interface under the Platform.</p>
<p>(7, 8 and 9): IPBES should supplement the principle of policy-relevant, but not policy prescriptive with principles of co-design, co-production and co-implementation to strengthen the policy dimensions of IPBES and strengthen the capacity to work at the Science Policy interface. There is a need to diversify different kinds of expertise (in particular the policy dimensions of IPBES) and improve the quality of experts. This could be facilitated by establishing national IPBES committees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Requests</i> the secretariat, under the guidance of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau in accordance with their respective mandates, to prepare for consideration by the Plenary at its eighth session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Proposed modalities for strengthening the policy dimensions of the work of the Platform;
<p>(11): The current rules of procedure need to be checked for relevance, potentially updated, and made more accessible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) An analysis of whether any of the current rules and procedures of the Platform need to be modified in light of the review of the first work programme of the Platform;
<p>(12 and 13): The secretariat should be better resourced, administrative procedures streamlined, and the role of TSUs given greater recognition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) An analysis of whether there are any administrative procedures that can be modified or streamlined to make the secretariat more efficient in light of the review of the first work programme of the Platform;
<p>(14): IPBES should develop comprehensive guidance on NFP roles and good practice, recognizing that each country should define their own modalities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) An outline for more comprehensive guidance on the roles and good practices of national focal points;
<p><See recommendation 17 below></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) An analysis of the procedures followed by IPBES to produce assessments and potential options for improvement, such as through the use of web-based systems;
<p><See recommendation 29 below></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (f) Additional ways and means for enhancing the recognition of financial and in-kind academic and organizational contributions made to IPBES;

⁹ Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of IPBES, set out in document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, annex I, appendix I, section II.

Implementation of the first work programme	<p style="text-align: center;">III</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matters pertaining to the future work programme of the Platform</p>
(15): Align the ambitions and scope of the work programme with the budget and human resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resolves</i> to align the scope and implementation of the work programme up to 2030 with available and projected budgetary and human resources;
(16, 18): IPBES should take a more holistic approach to assessments, and must strengthen significantly the policy dimensions of its work, with policy relevance at national and local levels framing all aspects of IPBES assessments, which should (i) include practitioners, e.g., managers of biodiversity assets in its activities; (ii) develop the capacity to understand how the policy process works; (iii) assess the effectiveness of policies; (iv) generate policy choices within the assessments, that are more closely policy prescriptive; and (v) develop simple and compelling arguments for actionable evidence, tools and options to a range of public and private decision-makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Underscores</i> the need to continue to develop the policy dimensions and relevance of the Platform, including by involving a wider range of expertise and disciplines, including knowledge and experience from policy processes, in the scoping, design and production of assessments and work related to policy support tools; • <i>Reiterates</i> that information provided by the Platform should not be policy-prescriptive, but <i>stresses</i> the need for assessments to identify actionable policy options, at relevant spatial scales and for relevant actors and sectors, including by assessing the effectiveness of policies, and to develop simple and compelling arguments for actionable evidence, tools and options;
(16): IPBES assessments should be managed as a process rather than an end-product, with greater emphasis on cross-disciplinary, cross-specialist, cross-sector co-production across multiple knowledge systems. Other relevant IPBES deliverables and processes such as policy support tools and methodologies, and capacity building should not be neglected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recalls</i> that assessments are part of a process and are not an end in their own right, and requests the secretariat to continue to strengthen the partnership-based outreach activities for completed assessments and other deliverables as part of the work programme up to 2030; • <i>Underscores</i> the need for cross-disciplinary, cross-specialist and cross-sector co-production of assessments of the Platform, involving multiple knowledge systems, and <i>calls</i> on Governments and other stakeholders to nominate an appropriate slate of experts;
(17): The assessment process should be modernized, including the possible use of web-based systems. IPBES should establish a time-limited task force to evaluate how such modernization can be accomplished.	<See element (e) for recommendation 7, 8 and 9 above>
(19): The knowledge and data functions need to be strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Re-affirms</i> the need to further advance the capacity-building function and the knowledge and data function of the Platform, and the need to ensure that indigenous and local knowledge and other knowledge systems are integral to the activities of the Platform as part of the work programme of the Platform up to 2030;
(20): The capacity-building function should continue and be enhanced to support the long-term impact of IPBES.	
(21 and 22): ILK and other knowledge systems should be integral into all of IPBES activities, and the scope and composition of the ILK task force should be reviewed.	

<p align="center">Budget and financial arrangements</p>	<p align="center">IV Matters pertaining to financial and budgetary arrangements of the Platform</p>
<p>(23,24,26, 27 and 30): IPBES members as well as its partners and other committed stakeholders have to do more to help ensure its financial sustainability in the long-term. This situation calls for much more focused efforts by all concerned to secure contributions from members (regularize income streams, potentially using a formula driven system); better mobilize and recognize in-kind contributions; match the work programme with available resources; set a target for reserves; develop key financial indicators; further develop partnerships, including from alliances, sectors and fields of work traditionally not engaged in IPBES; explore other possible modalities of work, and launch specific projects for earmarked fundraising.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recalls</i> the fundraising strategy and <i>re-affirms</i> the importance of in-kind contributions and financial stability and viability, with an appropriate reserve in line with United Nations practice, and of matching the work programme with resources available from member states and through the diversification of funding streams such as from the private sector and foundations; <p><See element (f) for recommendation 7, 8 and 9 above></p>
<p>(28): IPBES should determine an aspirational target to define the percentage of the annual budget devoted to the work program versus running the platform, and pre-determine an allocation to the different components of the work program.</p>	
<p>(29): The scientific community requires greater recognition, and their contributions should be tracked.</p>	
<p align="center">Towards greater impact</p>	<p align="center">V Enhancing the impact of the Platform</p>
<p>(31, 32 and 33): IPBES needs improved communications, using more coverage on television, more opinion pieces, and greater diversity in spokespersons, primarily using the experts not Bureau, MEP and secretariat, with a primary target of bringing evidence to decision-making to facilitate transformative change. There needs to be a more systematic and strategic approach to impact policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acknowledges</i> that universal membership, external and internal reviews, continuous learning through approaches such as the theory of change and the facilitation of dialogue and communication between diverse range of experts and policymakers are vital to the impact of the Platform on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and <i>underscores</i> that this can only be achieved over time through a systematic and programmatic development of processes, institutions and networks of experts and stakeholders for enhancing the science–policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services.
<p>(34): The platform should attempt to reach universal membership</p>	
<p>(35): IPBES should put in place regular internal and external reviews</p>	
<p>(36): IPBES should make explicit use of the “theory” of change</p>	