



28 November 2018

EM/2018/25

Dear IPBES members, observers and stakeholders,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, on the basis of a request by H.E. Jorge Arreaza Monserrat, the Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has formally joined IPBES as our 131st member. I know you will join me in warmly welcoming the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the growing IPBES family – strengthening science and policy, for people and nature.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few upcoming deadlines and share some information related to the ongoing work of IPBES, IPBES 7 and IPBES 8:

You may recall my letter, dated 12 September 2018 ([EM/2018/18](#)), inviting governments and relevant stakeholders to register as participants for the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Plenary, taking place from 28 April to 4 May 2019, in Paris, France. I would like to thank everyone who has already registered and invite those who have not to register by filling in the online registration form (<https://www.ipbes.net/registration/ipbes-7>) as soon as possible, and no later than **11 January 2019**.

I would like to draw your attention to the [dedicated webpage](#) for the seventh IPBES Plenary session meeting documents, where you will find the provisional agenda and [information for participants](#). Meeting documents will be posted to this page as soon as they become available.

At IPBES 7, representatives of IPBES members will be presented, for discussion and possible approval, with a definitive new global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services – the first such report since the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was published in 2005, and the first ever that is intergovernmental. A primer of this global assessment is made available in all six UN languages here: <http://www.ipbes.net/ipbes7-primers>

At IPBES 7, the Plenary will also be invited to elect a Bureau, consisting of the Chair of IPBES, four Vice-Chairs and five other officers. Members of IPBES are invited to submit written nominations and accompanying curricula vitae of nominees by **4 January 2019**. Please refer also to my letter on this matter dated 12 September 2018 ([EM/2018/19](#)) for further information.

I would like to also take this opportunity to repeat the invitation to Governments to consider hosting the eighth session of the Plenary of IPBES (#IPBES8), tentatively scheduled for June or July 2020.

Governments interested in hosting the eighth session are invited to inform the Secretariat by email to secretariat@ipbes.net as soon as possible, but no later than 28 February 2019.

Further to my letter, dated 4 October 2018 ([EM/2018/22](#)), inviting Governments and stakeholders to nominate experts for the assessment of invasive alien species, I wish to remind you that nominees should fill out the [application form](#) no later than **11 January 2019** and that governments and organisations should approve the applications by **1 February 2019**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Larigauderie". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anne Larigauderie
Executive Secretary