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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services****Seventh session**

Paris, 29 April–4 May 2019

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Organizational matters: election
of members of the Bureau****Election of members of the Bureau****Note by the secretariat**

1. At its seventh session, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will be invited to elect a new Bureau. At its fourth session, held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2016, the Plenary elected 10 members to the Bureau in accordance with the rules of procedure for the Plenary as adopted in decision IPBES-1/1 and amended in decision IPBES-2/1. The term of office of those members will end at the close of the seventh session of the Plenary.
2. At the sixth session of the Plenary, Ms. Ana Maria Hernandez (Colombia) was elected to serve the remainder of the term of a member from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean who had resigned.
3. As is stipulated in rule 15 of the rules of procedure for the Plenary of IPBES, the Bureau of the Plenary, consisting of the chair, four vice-chairs and five other officers, is elected from among the members of IPBES. Each of the five United Nations regions is represented by two officers in the Bureau, taking into account the principle of geographical representation.
4. Rule 15 also provides that the chair and four vice-chairs, one of whom acts as rapporteur, are to be selected with due consideration to scientific and technical expertise and from each of the five United Nations regions. In accordance with rule 22, all nominees for election as the chair and vice-chairs need to have relevant expertise as set out in the agreed guidelines. The functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of IPBES as set out in appendix I to the resolution establishing it (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, annex I) provide the following guidelines for the nomination and selection of the chair and vice-chairs:
 - (a) Ability to carry out the agreed functions of the chair and vice-chairs;
 - (b) Scientific expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to both natural and social sciences among the officers of the Plenary;
 - (c) Scientific, technical or policy expertise and knowledge of the main elements of the programme of work of IPBES;
 - (d) Experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes;
 - (e) Ability both to lead and work in international scientific and policy processes.
5. The extent to which the skills of the chair and the vice-chairs complement one another might also need to be taken into consideration in the nomination and selection processes.

* IPBES/7/1.

6. The functions of the chair are set out in the rules of procedure for the Plenary of IPBES. Paragraph 1 of rule 17 states that, in addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere in the rules of procedure, the chair:

- (a) Represents the Platform;
- (b) Declares the opening and closure of each session;
- (c) Presides at sessions of the Plenary and meetings of the Bureau;
- (d) Ensures the observance of the rules of procedure in accordance with the definitions, functions and operating principles of the Platform;
- (e) Accords participants the right to speak;
- (f) Applies the decision-making procedure in rule 36;
- (g) Rules on any points of order;
- (h) Subject to the rules of procedure, exercises complete control over the proceedings and maintains order.

7. With regard to the election of the chair, paragraph 3 of rule 15 states that the chair is to be rotated among the five United Nations regions every three years without the possibility of re-election as chair. At the sixth session of the Plenary, the Chair held informal consultations on the matter of rotation. In his report back to the Plenary on the outcome of those consultations, he said that all the regional groups had reaffirmed the applicability of rule 15 of the rules of procedure for the sessions of the Plenary, which included the provision that the chair of the Bureau would be rotated among the five United Nations regions every three years without the possibility of re-election as chair. While all the regions had acknowledged that applying the rule on rotation would mean that the next chair of IPBES would come from the African region, the Eastern European region or the Latin American and the Caribbean region, no consensus had been reached on whether the Plenary should decide on the sequence in which the regions would assume the chair. Therefore, the Plenary agreed to continue to apply rule 15 and to reflect that agreement in the report of the session (IPBES/6/15, para. 18).

8. In accordance with rule 15, the five additional members of the Bureau are to carry out relevant administrative functions.

9. Each Bureau member is elected for a term of office of three years with the opportunity of re-election for one consecutive term.

10. In accordance with rule 22, the secretariat of IPBES, in notification EM/2018/19 dated 12 September 2018, invited members of IPBES to submit written nominations and the curricula vitae of the nominees by 4 January 2019 latest. The names of the nominees and their curricula vitae are available on the IPBES website at www.ipbes.net/nominations/bureau/ipbes7 and in document IPBES/7/INF/3.

11. The committee on conflicts of interest will be invited to review the conflict of interest forms of nominees for election to the Bureau of IPBES to determine their eligibility for election in accordance with rule 3 of the conflict of interest policy and implementation procedures adopted by the Plenary at its third session, in decision IPBES-3/3. The committee will cover the issue in its report, which will be submitted to the Plenary at least four weeks prior to the seventh session.

12. Candidates for membership of the Bureau will be nominated by the regions for subsequent election by the Plenary. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure for the Plenary, the Bureau will be elected by the Plenary by consensus unless the Plenary decides otherwise.

13. In accordance with paragraph 4 of rule 15, each region can designate alternates, to be approved by the Plenary, to represent the region at a meeting of the Bureau if the Bureau member(s) is/are unable to attend.