

Terms of References for the inclusive and self-organized Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders

Since the inception of IPBES, stakeholders have coordinated their support and engagement to the work programme of the platform. They supported very actively the development and adoption by IPBES 3rd plenary of deliverable 4(d) the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES), recognizing their important role and contribution to the process, as part of the “policies and procedures” of the platform ([IPBES/3/18, Annex II: Communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnership, p105](#)).

To assist IPBES in its responsibility to implement the SES, the IPBES 3rd plenary encouraged “**the self-organization of an inclusive, open-ended network of stakeholders**” and stakeholders seized this opportunity to formalise their already existing/acting network.

These Terms of References are established to open and develop a “community webspace” on IPBES website in order to initiate a formal structure to the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders.

The Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders, or ONet, is a self-organized network, community or group, working in collaboration with IPBES in supporting the implementation of the IPBES work programme through the SES.

The Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders is open to all stakeholders of IPBES, encompassing a very diverse community. IPBES stakeholders are defined in the SES (see [IPBES/3/18, Annex II, V. Definition of stakeholders, p106](#)).

The Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders is self-organized through its network members volunteering to take the responsibility of various tasks, on a regular basis or occasionally, depending on the needs. There is no fee to become a member of the network, community or group, and members should not expect financial support from the network for their engagement with IPBES.

The Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders aims to facilitate and maximize the effective engagement of stakeholders and knowledge holders in the IPBES process, taking into account the diversity of its members. ONet main objectives are:

- Foster a two-way communication between network members and IPBES;
- Disseminate information and material on IPBES products and achievements to a great variety of audiences;
- Reach out to a diversity of potential users and providers of information, data, knowledge to increase the relevance and use of the IPBES Platform;
- Strengthen support for the Platform’s deliverables from different regions and scientific disciplines;
- Mobilize resources for capacity-building; and
- Mobilize in-kind contributions from stakeholders.

The Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders aims to facilitate and maximize capacity building for network members in order to enhance the positive role of stakeholders in the IPBES process. ONet aims to support network members in sharing knowledge and expertise within the community but also through the IPBES capacity building rolling plan and the IPBES catalogue of policy support tools and methods.

The Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders supports the facilitation of **stakeholder day(s)** prior to the IPBES plenaries in close collaboration with IPBES and volunteering network members. **The stakeholder day(s) are open to all stakeholders without accreditation to observer status.**

ONet members are strongly encouraged to support:

- the dissemination of information provided by the network and IPBES.
- the efforts to identify and mobilize relevant stakeholders and knowledge holders.
- the mobilization of in-kind contributions, in their own capacity, for the network activities and the implementation of the IPBES work programme.

ONet members should not:

- speak on behalf of the Network if they are not mandated to do so.
- use the community webspace to commercially advertise or promote products, software, issues or views that are not related to IPBES work and the aims of network, community or group.

Membership to the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders has no implications for admission of observers into the IPBES plenary. Stakeholders interested in becoming observers should apply for observer status following IPBES policy and procedures for the admission of observers (IPBES/1/12, para. 22).