

Proposed Opening Statement for IPBES-11 Plenary in Windhoek, Namibia

Thank you, Chair, for granting us the floor. I am [Name], representing the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONET) and those who participated in the Stakeholder Day ahead of IPBES-11.

We express our gratitude to Namibia for hosting this landmark plenary, the first to be convened on the African continent. We welcome new Members to IPBES and welcome all Members to support the platform's unique Stakeholder Engagement.

We advocate for the promotion of wider access to IPBES outputs, building on the success of the Invasive Alien Species Assessment. We urge governments to ensure that key findings and tools are communicated in accessible formats and languages, so all stakeholders can use them.

We encourage meaningful engagement and enhancing participation for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, women and diverse stakeholders: to ensure inclusivity and equity in conservation towards a sustainable future.

As discussed in the development of the transformative change and nexus assessments, stakeholders are demonstrably essential in fostering transformative changes to address biodiversity loss and its intersections with climate, food, water, and health. We therefore call on IPBES members and all other actors to adapt their decision-making process to take into account the scientific findings and main messages from these IPBES assessments.

The start of the 2nd Global Assessment is an unmissable opportunity, particularly for underrepresented regions and groups, to be involved through their experts in this major scientific work. This requires increased efforts in capacity building and resource mobilization to enhance equitable participation and ensure representative expertise in IPBES processes.

Collaboration is key to reversing biodiversity loss and addressing the interconnected crises our world faces. Stakeholders stand ready to contribute to these shared goals. Together, we can create a more sustainable and equitable future.

Thank you Chair.