

Opening Statement from the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet) to the IPBES-10 Opening Session

28 August 2023

Thank you, Chair, for giving us the floor. This is Franziska Fischer from the University of Cambridge speaking on behalf of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders and participants attending the Stakeholder Day prior to IPBES-10.

We enthusiastically **THANK** the Governments of the United States of America and Germany for hosting us.

We **CONGRATULATE** the new nations who have officially joined IPBES. We **ENCOURAGE** countries from regions that have not already hosted Plenaries, to do so in the future. We also **ENCOURAGE** IPBES Member States from under-represented regions to propose more experts contributing to the overall IPBES gender, cultural, and generational diversity. This will strengthen the truly global dissemination of IPBES outputs and wider stakeholder inclusion.

We **WELCOME** the completion of the Invasive Alien Species Assessment. We **URGE** countries to recognize the critical role of stakeholders in managing this major driver of biodiversity loss.

We **CALL** on IPBES Member States to follow the sustainability pathways outlined by the Values Assessment by moving beyond the economic growth paradigm that diminishes biodiversity towards a biodiversity-friendly pathway that enhances overall prosperity.

We strongly **SUPPORT** the upcoming IPBES work on the Business and Biodiversity Assessment and **WELCOME** the increasing awareness among the private sector of its dependence and impacts on biodiversity.

We also **EMPHASISE** the importance of the ‘whole of government, whole of society’ approach to successfully delivering the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

We **CALL ON** all the Member States to ensure effective dissemination of IPBES products and their key messages and make them accessible to all, at all levels, in their appropriate formats and languages. The stakeholders’ community will help as much as possible in this process, as halting and reversing biodiversity loss requires a collective effort.

We **WELCOME** a future second global assessment which builds on the previous one. We would like it to address more of the connections between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, as well as between the biodiversity and the climate change crises.

We **CANNOT OVERSTATE** the need for capacity building, recognizing that knowledge transfer is the bedrock of sustainable progress.

Finally, we **SUPPORT** IIFBES' opening statement and we **URGE** IPBES Member States to further heed the voices of Indigenous peoples and local communities who are the custodians of their lands and waters.

Thank you, Chair!