

Opening Statement from Participants at the Stakeholders Days - IPBES 4

1. EXPRESS appreciation to the Government of Malaysia and the IPBES Secretariat for providing an opportunity for consultation prior to and during this fourth plenary meeting of IPBES.
2. EXPRESS appreciation for the advances IPBES has made in the last inter-sessional period in the task forces, on assessments and scoping, and the direct involvement of numerous members of the stakeholder communities especially via e-conferences.
3. EXPRESS appreciation for the wide range and high number of participants at the stakeholder days, which responds to the need for diversity, transparency, inclusiveness and the balanced representation of regions, genders and disciplines. We especially welcome the larger engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and support the statement of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
4. REITERATE the importance of a wide range of expertise and knowledge in implementing the work programme and CALL for stronger and new commitments from members to ensure the participation and contribution of experts from all regions, sectors and knowledge systems.
5. WELCOME the implementation of the conflict of interest policy for guaranteeing the credibility, transparency and integrity of IPBES processes.
6. URGE that all policy options in the technical reports are spelt out in the Summary for Policymakers (SPMs). In situations of scientific uncertainty and potentially serious or irreversible harm to biodiversity and ecosystem services, we recall the precautionary approach and remind countries that they may choose to withdraw or withhold approvals for potentially harmful substances and activities.
7. APPRECIATE the progress IPBES has made in implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, and ENCOURAGE the IPBES Secretariat to implement the activities set out in the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (IPBES-3/3/4 Annex II) and Communication Strategy ((IPBES-3/3/4 Annex I).
8. We would like to draw the delegates' attention to IPBES/4/INF/16, which presents the progress of the open-ended stakeholder network.
9. WE OFFER the wide range and high quality of contributions, as well as the many communication channels, of the stakeholder communities and the open-ended network.