

Opening Statement from the Open –ended Network of IPBES stakeholders

18/03/2018 – Opening session of IPBES-6

Thank you chair for giving us the floor, this is Adriana Flores, from Global Water Watch, speaking on behalf of the Open – ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet).

We would like to:

EXPRESS appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the IPBES Secretariat for providing an opportunity for consultation prior to and during this sixth plenary meeting of IPBES and for the opportunity for broader engagement with the stakeholder community via webcast.

THANK the secretariat for inviting the Open-Ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders to co-facilitate, with the IIFBES, the Stakeholder Day prior to IPBES-6 and look forward to continued close collaboration.

NOTE that the participants of the Stakeholder Day discussed a variety of items and progress of the work programme and will provide the outcomes for consideration by the plenary.

HIGHLIGHT that a full day should be allocated as Stakeholder Day in order to provide sufficient time for discussing the activities of the growing Stakeholder Network.

ENCOURAGE the members to adopt the SPMs for the four regional assessments as well as the land degradation and restoration assessment with strong key messages that reflect the findings of the assessments.

CALL to initiate the pending assessments, in particular highlighting the importance of the methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits to contribute to current and future assessments. We HIGHLIGHT that underrepresented ecosystems (such as freshwater, islands, mountains) and groups of people (such as those from Small Island Developing States) shall be especially considered important and made visible.

HIGHLIGHT that the inclusion of local and indigenous knowledge as well as production of quality scientific results needs sufficient and adaptive time planning. This could support a proper learning and adaptation process.

WELCOME the upcoming external review of the platform and APPRECIATE the inclusion of the stakeholder engagement strategy. However, we STRESS that the simultaneous presentation of the external review with the adoption of the second work program precludes appropriate inclusion of review insights by the plenary into the development of the second work program.

INVITE the platform to develop further recognition and support mechanisms as well as other incentives for contributing authors, fellows, stakeholders, and all other knowledge holders to get involved in the whole assessment process, including the reviews.

ENCOURAGE the election of a truly multidisciplinary expert panel, including representatives of local and indigenous knowledge systems, and better balance in gender representation.

EXPRESS the importance of communication strategies as well as implementation measures for how to use assessments on the national or regional scale. Further, we HIGHLIGHT that stakeholder engagement is essential for communication and outreach. Nevertheless, stakeholder engagement should not be restricted to communication and outreach. It also includes capacity development, knowledge exchange, and representation.

WELCOME the progress on communication between the secretariat and stakeholders and look forward to further collaborations.

Thank you chair