

**Opening Statement from the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders and stakeholders present at Stakeholder Day prior to the IPBES-7.
29/04/2019 – Opening session of IPBES-7**

1) Thank you chair for giving us the floor, this is Paula Drummond from the Brazilian Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES), speaking on behalf of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet) and stakeholders present at Stakeholder Day prior to the IPBES-7.

2) We would like to:
EXPRESS appreciation to the Government of France and the IPBES Secretariat for providing an opportunity for consultation prior to and during IPBES-7 and for the opportunity for broader engagement with the stakeholder community via webcast.

3) HIGHLIGHT that biodiversity loss and climate change are gaining traction within the broader society and youth in particular, be it the issue of pollinator decline or the “Fridays For Future” movement. This is strongly supported by the results of the IPBES assessments and is a clear call for urgent action.

In order to support urgent action, we CALL on IPBES members to start the thematic assessment on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change immediately to provide pathways towards sustainability.

4) We SUPPORT the IIFBES statement and in particular the request to IPBES and its members to give IPLCs every option of participation in the IPBES work programme, as IPLCs are at the frontline of defending ecosystems and protecting biodiversity in the face of homogenization, violence and extinction.

5) When addressing the impact and dependence business has on biodiversity (proposed deliverable 1d), we INVITE IPBES to assess international business relations and the impacts global corporations have on biodiversity and other nature-related values in any country and to develop possible solutions to avoid these impacts in the future.

6) We ENCOURAGE IPBES members and donors to not only provide the necessary resources for the implementation of the rolling work programme, but also increase their efforts to support the engaged experts and knowledge holders at the national level. No IPBES report can be implemented without their personal contributions.

7) Climate change as a main driver for the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services is gaining increasing importance. Therefore, we WELCOME the proposed deliverable 1(c) and the expected collaboration of IPBES and IPCC. We call on IPBES members to enable the timely implementation of the technical paper on the interlinkage between biodiversity and climate change and to highlight the risks for societies and economies stemming from both threats.

8) As urbanization is one of the key threats to biodiversity, we ENCOURAGE IPBES members to engage local and regional governments in the implementation of the second work programme.

9) We ENCOURAGE IPBES members to adopt the SPM for the global assessment with strong key messages that adequately reflect the findings of the assessment.

10) We REQUEST IPBES members to consult with stakeholders on important agenda items such as the draft Global Assessment SPM and the draft second work programme and request the working group chairs to allow inputs from stakeholders during the discussions.

11) We THANK the Secretariat for hosting the 7th Stakeholder Day that attracted over 500 registrants. We welcome the increasing interest in IPBES stakeholder events and INVITE IPBES members to provide adequate resources for such events.

12) Finally, we are happy to announce, that the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet) was formally launched in December 2018 and that interested stakeholders are invited to join the self-organised and inclusive network. We stand ready to support the implementation of the next IPBES work programme as well as the ongoing assessments and capacity building activities.

Thank you chair