

**Closing Statement**  
**from the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet)**  
**IPBES-8 Closing Session – 24 June 2021**

Thank you chair for giving us the floor, this is Ismael Ocen from Ocean One Social Research Centre, Uganda, speaking on behalf of the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders (ONet).

We THANK IPBES for their excellent organization of this plenary in an online format.

We CONGRATULATE State Members delegations, all IPBES bodies, authors and reviewers, and the large community of stakeholders, for their perseverance and dedication in keeping this science-policy platform alive and meaningful.

We want to NOTE the under-representation of valuable regions of the world, most of which are in the Global South, at this plenary and EXPRESS concern for the robustness of the IPBES processes in such a context.

We should BE MINDFUL of the context of pandemics: while online settings made it easier for young delegates to participate, it was more difficult for them to fully commit to the meetings, and there were less opportunities to network for all. We recommend a hybrid approach in the future.

We CALL ON IPBES member states to enhance capacity-building efforts and encourage them to have inclusive consultations with relevant stakeholders at all levels. We ASK regional meetings to be open to stakeholders.

We WELCOME the IPBES-IPCC workshop report and URGE IPBES members to address and deal with Climate Change and Biodiversity crises simultaneously.

We RECOGNIZE the inclusion of freshwater and marine environments in the scoping reports of Nexus and Transformative Change assessments. We RECOMMEND IPBES authors to fully consider marine issues, building on existing material such as the UN World Ocean Assessments to avoid duplication of efforts.

Finally, we RECOMMEND properly investigating within the Nexus assessment fair and equitable access and benefit-sharing as an option for delivering sustainable approaches to finance.

Thank you Chair!