



**STATEMENT BY
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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE PLENARY OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
(IPBES-4)**

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**Convention on
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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to join you here in Kuala Lumpur for the fourth session of the IPBES Plenary. We come together for a very exciting moment in the history of IPBES, when the Plenary will be presented with the first two assessments for its acceptance and approval.

The thematic assessment report on pollinators, pollination and food production brings together scientific evidence on the values, status and trends of pollinators and pollination. It clearly outlines the dependency of food crops on pollinators, in particular wild pollinators, and at the same time draws a grim picture regarding their conservation status, distribution and diversity. I am pleased to see that the assessment provides a way forward, with a range of strategic responses to the risks and opportunities associated with pollinators, distilled from scientific evidence and experience.

The assessment is not only very relevant in terms of the findings it provides on pollinators and pollination. It is proof of the successful functioning of the Platform only four years after its establishment. We expect that, with this assessment, IPBES has prepared a scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed assessment that clearly identifies existing knowledge and uncertainties – fully meeting the expectations outlined in its functions. With this assessment, IPBES will be confirming its ability to respond to specific concerns submitted to it by CBD, such as the impacts of neonicotinoid insecticides on biodiversity, and in particular on pollinators.

However, I would have expected that some of the issues covered by this assessment would have found their way to the key messages section in a stronger and more explicit way.

On behalf of CBD and all other biodiversity-related conventions I look forward to the finalization of this assessment by the IPBES Plenary including an agreed set of Key Messages that faithfully reflects the contents of this important and timely assessment. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the scientists and knowledge holders who contributed to make this assessment a reality.

Once the Plenary accepts this assessment, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of CBD will follow the procedures established at COP 12 and consider the relevance of the findings for the work of the Convention at its next meeting, at the end of April. SBSTTA would develop recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on further necessary action, which I am confident will benefit from the assessment. The assessment report on pollinators and pollination will be a first test-case to illustrate how the coordinated work of IPBES and the CBD can greatly enhance the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. I would like to point out that the next SBSTTA meeting will also be addressing the broader issue of mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture sector, providing an adequate context in which the consideration of the findings of this assessment will take place.

The second assessment presented to the Plenary this week, the methodological assessment on scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services, presents us with expert advice on the use of existing models and scenarios. It also contains recommendations for addressing gaps in data, knowledge, methods and tools relating to scenarios and models and for efforts needed to further coordinate the assumptions underlying scenarios between the biodiversity and climate change communities.

From the experience under CBD with scenarios and models underlying the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, I fully support the recommendations contained in the assessment, in particular the call to the scientific community to consider addressing key gaps in methods for modelling impacts of scenarios of drivers and policy interventions on biodiversity and ecosystem services. I see great potential in the use of models to help bring together variables from different data sets for the development of maps and indicators in areas where we lack dedicated monitoring systems and observations.

This assessment is crucially important for future work under CBD. It provides advice on the use of models and scenarios in the assessments under the Platform, ensuring their policy-relevance and enhancing their quality, which, ultimately, Parties to CBD will benefit from. In addition, the advice provided in this assessment will also guide any scenario work under CBD that may be undertaken additional to the IPBES deliverables in the context of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets provides a universally agreed framework for action on biodiversity and a foundation for sustainable development for all stakeholders. Over the last five years, the Strategic Plan has catalysed concerted action, in particular under CBD and other the biodiversity-related Conventions, but also the wider United Nations system. Significant progress has been made in implementing the Strategic Plan and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However, the mid-term review of progress by COP-12, on the basis of GBO-4 and the fifth national reports shows that, in most cases, significant additional actions will be necessary to achieve the targets by 2020.

At its fifteenth meeting, in 2020, the Conference of the Parties will undertake its final assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It will also consider a follow-up to the Strategic Plan that will guide the world's action on biodiversity beyond 2020. It will do so within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, which stand to play a major role in addressing trade-offs and synergies among competing policy areas.

At its nineteenth meeting last November, SBSTTA recommended to the Conference of the Parties to initiate the preparation for a fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* to provide a concise final report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and a basis for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan beyond 2020.

In its recommendation, SBSTTA clearly highlighted the relationship between the work under CBD and the deliverables of IPBES. GBO-5 should draw upon the thematic, regional and global assessments of IPBES and any relevant scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services undertaken as part of these assessments. I expect the global and regional assessments, in particular, to make a major contribution to the basis for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity beyond 2020.

The scoping report for the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services looks particularly promising to me. I am very happy to see that analyses of the assessment will use multiple evidence bases, including both natural and social sciences and indigenous and local knowledge. Also, the emphasis of the role of institutional and governance structures is very innovative and promises to add much value to the assessment.

The comprehensive scope of the assessment and particularly its chapters on understanding progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, and scenarios and pathways towards a sustainable future, focusing both on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, will provide a wealth of valuable information.

The assessment will not only build the basis for the final assessment of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, but also set the bar for the level of ambition that any post-2020 targets need to reflect. The regional and global assessments will be a stepping stone for countries in the development of their biodiversity commitments for the time beyond 2020, and therefore of crucial importance at the global, regional, national and subnational levels.

In this context, I am also very encouraged by the progress in the four regional and subregional assessments and look forward to reviewing the first drafts later this year. However, I must stress that any delay in the delivery of the global assessment will seriously compromise its impact and usefulness for the CBD process in this decade and beyond 2020.

As an input to the development of the regional assessments let me draw your attention to the initiative of several of UNEP's regional offices to prepare, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the CBD Secretariat, a number of regional reports that build upon the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. The reports for Africa, West Asia, and Asia and the Pacific are expected to be launched at UNEA-2, and the report for Latin America and the Caribbean is expected to be launched at COP-13. I am convinced that these reports provide useful information for the ongoing regional assessments, and I invite you to take them into account in your work.

Mr. Chairman, Madame Executive Secretary, members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, scientists and knowledge holders who contributed to these two assessments, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me commend you on the great progress made not only on the assessments but also on your effort to recognize and use indigenous and local knowledge systems and work on capacity-building and other deliverables. We stand ready to continue our close collaboration with IPBES on all those matters and look forward to the discussions this week.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you.
