



**Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,
Astrid Schomaker**

**at the closing of the eleventh session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
(16 December 2024, Windhoek)**

Distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends,

As the eleventh session comes to a close, I would like to reiterate the importance that we, at the CBD Secretariat, attach to IPBES work, and to appreciate in particular how this work integrates science and traditional knowledge, thus making it even stronger.

The outcomes of the eleventh session are relevant to CBD Parties in many ways.

In terms of process, there is a clear pathway for IPBES assessments to feed into the CBD processes: CBD Parties will consider the implications of these assessments for the work under the Convention in the context of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Armenia.

On Wednesday, we will celebrate the second anniversary of the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This is a time to celebrate achievements, but also to embark on a full-throttle acceleration of implementation.

We expect Parties to draw on the IPBES assessments for informed decision-making that can underpin this much-needed surge of implementation of the Framework.

This requires bringing down silos in science, in governmental action, among conventions and among groups of stakeholders.

Only in this way can we realistically aspire to bring about the necessary transformative change and innovation and to unlock all available resources, including domestic public and private finance.

Speaking about stakeholders, despite many positive steps, business's engagement with and for biodiversity remains disappointing. So, looking forward to the twelfth session of IPBES, we hope that once again science will be our ally and provide authoritative information on business's interaction with biodiversity, paving the way for strong frameworks for disclosures and behavioural change.

In conclusion, we all know the world is in a race against the clock to avoid tipping points and fulfil the positive promise of the Framework. When the time for our final stocktaking of the Framework implementation comes, sugar-coating is what we must be prepared for. So I implore all of you to make sure that the second global assessment, with its wide scope, is both comprehensive and targeted, providing a clear picture of progress against each of the 23 targets.

I may be biased, but for science to cross the divide to policymaking, this seems the most promising avenue. Let us not waste this opportunity.

Let's team up even more and use your work to help the world to move in the right direction and, as the presidency of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties eloquently put it, make peace with nature.

But for now: thank you, IPBES and all the authors; thank you, Anne!