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Plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services
First session
Nairobi, 3–7 October 2011

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Opening of the session

1. The first session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services will be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi from 3 to 7 October 2011. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 3 October 2011, by the Executive Director of UNEP.

Item 2: Organizational matters

2. Since the meeting is convened under the auspices of the Governing Council of UNEP pursuant to its decision 26/4 of 24 February 2011, the rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP will be applied, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of the meeting.

(a) Election of officers

3. Subject to the rules of procedure, a chair and four vice-chairs will be elected from among the representatives of Governments. One of the vice-chairs will serve as rapporteur. The principle of equal geographical representation from the five United Nations regions will be duly followed when electing those officers, who will constitute the Bureau of the meeting.

4. In addition to its functions in conducting the business of the meeting, the Bureau will be tasked with examining the credentials of the representatives, with the assistance of the secretariat.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

5. Subject to the rules of procedure, representatives may wish to adopt the agenda, amended as appropriate, on the basis of the provisional agenda set forth in document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/1.

(c) Organization of work

6. It is suggested that deliberations should take place in the form of plenary sessions. When deemed necessary, however, representatives may wish to establish smaller working groups to discuss specific matters.

7. It is suggested that sessions should be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

8. For plenary sessions, simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations will be provided.

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Item 3: Credentials of representatives

9. All States that are members of the United Nations, of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency are invited to participate in the meeting. The representatives of those States represented at the meeting should submit to the secretariat their credentials, issued by the Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs, no later than 24 hours after the opening of the meeting. Such credentials are required for the representatives to take necessary decisions at the meeting. The relevant United Nations bodies, funds, programmes and agencies, and other relevant organizations may be represented in the meeting as observers.

10. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives of Governments at the meeting will be examined by the Bureau, which will report thereon. It should be noted that, under rule 16, each Government is to be represented by one accredited representative, who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers.

Item 4: Consideration of the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

11. Under the item, representatives may wish to consider the modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform, with a view to recommending those matters to the governing body of the platform for its consideration.

(a) Legal issues relating to the establishment and operationalization of the platform

12. Representatives will have before them a note by the secretariat on legal issues relating to the establishment and operationalization of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/2), which will be presented by a representative of the secretariat. Following the presentation, the representatives may wish to discuss the information provided with a view to determining a legal basis for the establishment of the platform and its operationalization.

(b) Functions and operating principles of the platform

13. Representatives will have before them a note by the secretariat on the functions and operating principles of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/3), which will be presented by a representative of the secretariat. Following the presentation, the representatives may wish to consider the information provided, with a view to making recommendations on these matters.

(c) Functions and structures of bodies that might be established under the platform

14. Representatives will have before them a note by the secretariat on the possible functions and structures of bodies that might be established under the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/4), which will be presented by a representative of the secretariat. Following the presentation, the representatives may wish to discuss the information provided, with a view to making recommendations on these matters.

(d) Rules of procedure for meetings of the platform

15. Representatives will have before them a note by the secretariat on rules of procedure for meetings of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/5), which will be presented by a representative of the secretariat. Following the presentation, the representatives may wish to discuss the information provided, with a view to making recommendations on these matters.

(e) Process and criteria for selecting the host institution or institutions and the physical location of the platform's secretariat

16. Representatives will have before them a note by the secretariat on the process and criteria for selecting the host institution or institutions and the physical location of the platform's secretariat (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/6), which will be presented by a representative of the secretariat. Following the presentation, the representatives may wish to discuss the information provided, with a view to making recommendations on these matters.

(f) Work programme of the platform

17. Representatives will have before them a note by the secretariat on the possible work programme of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/7), which will be presented by a representative of the secretariat. Following the presentation, the representatives may wish to discuss the information provided, with a view to making recommendations on these matters.

18. Representatives may wish to take note of the information provided in the following documents:

(a) Report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES/3/3);

(b) Scenario note for the two sessions of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/1);

(c) Collation of decisions made by governing and subsidiary bodies of relevant organizations and bodies on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/2);

(d) Options for the work programme of the platform on knowledge generation (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/3);

(e) Options for the work programme of the platform on assessments (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/4);

(f) Options for the work programme of the platform on policy support (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/5);

(g) Options for the work programme of the platform on capacity-building (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/6);

(h) Possible budget for the administration of the platform for the period 2012–2013 and in relation to the options for the work programme (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/7);

(i) Executive summary of the InterAcademy Council review of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and outcomes of the Panel's task teams (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/8);

(j) Advice from the Office of Legal Affairs on legal issues relating to the establishment and operationalization of the platform (UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/9).

19. In addition to the above documents, representatives may wish to refer to other documents made available at previous ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on the platform. The documents are available at: www.ipbes.net.

Item 5: Adoption of recommendations and resolutions

20. The government representatives may wish to consider adopting recommendations and resolutions on the basis of deliberations during the session.

Item 6: Adoption of the report

21. The government representatives will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting on the basis of the draft report prepared by the rapporteur.

Item 7: Closure of the session

22. It is expected that the session will be closed by the Chair by 6 p.m. on Friday, 7 October 2011.