

Africa Regional Opening statement

Senegal, as the current Chair of the African Union, makes this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The Chair of the Plenary
Madam Executive Secretary for IPBES
Executive Director of UNEP
Distinguished Delegates

Africa thanks the government of the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting the 9th session of the Plenary of the IPBES. We equally extend our appreciation to the Secretariat of the IPBES and all the donors for supporting the participation of the African Delegates in this meeting. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet in person at a time when the global biodiversity community is considering the post-2020 Framework that will establish a new deal for nature and people. Furthermore, Africa considers the IPBES assessment reports crucial as they provide baseline data that can be used as indicators in the Global Biodiversity Framework.

It is in this context that Africa welcomes the IPBES rolling work program up to 2030 as presented by the Executive Secretary. Africa also welcomes and appreciates the summary for policymakers on

1. **The thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species** including the revised definition of Sustainable Use in the Chair's Note.
2. **The methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services** and its summary for policymakers, noting that it presents the opportunity to mainstream biodiversity across all sectors through the appreciation of the diverse ways in which biodiversity can be valued. Africa equally pleads for more effort to help make the summary for policymakers clearer for policymakers to enable the use of the assessment not only by experts but also by decision-makers not deeply familiar with the area of valuation of nature.

In light of the pandemics, which is still raging in various parts of the world, Africa would like to emphasize the need to pay more attention to animal welfare in ways that will reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases taking into consideration the findings of the IPBES report on Biodiversity and Pandemics. For this reason, Africa calls on parties and the platform to

consider a dedicated assessment on biodiversity and pandemics within the context of the rolling work program up to 2030, with a view to reduce the risk of future pandemics.

Chair, the African region has identified a range of capacity needs that when addressed would *inter alia* enhance its participation and contribution to IPBES assessments. For this reason, we would like to encourage the Capacity Building Task Force to enhance its efforts aimed at capacity building in Africa and other developing regions. The African region will be happy to share more specifics with the Task Force in this regard in the near future

We welcome the work done by the IPBES Taskforce on Scenarios and Models to develop the Nature Futures Framework and its methodological guidance. In addition, we believe the inclusion of African perspectives and case studies in assessments for desirable futures for people and nature is very important especially since case studies from the African region are usually underrepresented due to data gaps and/or language barriers. We look forward to working further with the task force to undertake regional workshops that will both build future capacity and provide important policy-relevant scenarios and model outputs from an African perspective.

In conclusion, Africa welcomes the progress made by task forces and will support the proposed activities for the 2022/2023 inter-sessional period. We wish you all for fruitful deliberations.

I Thank You