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**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy  
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
Fifth session**

Bonn, Germany, 7–10 March 2017

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: election of alternate members of  
the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel****Multidisciplinary Expert Panel: nominations for the  
replacement of members having resigned****Note by the secretariat**

1. At its third session, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) elected 25 members to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in accordance with the rules of procedure for the Plenary as adopted in decisions IPBES-1/1 and IPBES-2/1. The term of office of those members will end at the close of the sixth session of the Plenary.
2. Since the fourth session of the Plenary, four members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel have resigned: Ms. Sandra Diaz (Latin American and Caribbean region), Ms. Maja Vasiljević and Mr. György Pataki (both Eastern European region) and Ms. Charlotte Karibuhoye (African region). Rule 31 of the rules of procedure stipulates that if a member of the Panel resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, that member will be replaced by an alternate nominated by the same region and selected by the Plenary.
3. In line with rule 29 of the rules of procedure, the alternate would serve until the end of the mandate of the member being replaced, that is, from the end of the fifth session until the end of the sixth session of the Plenary. Members of the Panel are elected with a possibility of re-election for one consecutive term.
4. In October 2016, the Executive Secretary invited the three regions concerned to submit nominations for alternates to replace the members who had resigned. By 15 December, only four nominations, not covering all the regions concerned, had been received. The Executive Secretary has therefore extended the deadline for nominations to 31 January 2017. Information on all the nominations received by that deadline, including the curricula vitae of the candidates, will be made available in the note by the secretariat on the matter (IPBES/5/INF/20) and on the IPBES website at [www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-5](http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-5).
5. The regions concerned will be invited to consider the nominations received and, under item 2 (a) of the agenda of the fifth session of the Plenary, to nominate, for selection by the Plenary, one member from the Latin American region, two members from the Eastern European region, and one member from the African region as replacements for the members who have resigned.
6. In line with rule 26 of the rules of procedure, nominations should take disciplinary and gender balance into account. In addition, the following criteria could be taken into account in nominating and selecting members of the Panel:
  - (a) Scientific expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to both natural and social sciences and traditional and local knowledge among the members of the Panel;

\* IPBES/5/1/Rev.1.

(b) Scientific, technical or policy expertise and knowledge of the main elements of the IPBES programme of work;

(c) Experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes;

(d) Ability to work in international scientific and policy processes.

7. The regions have also been informed of the need for members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to commit 20 per cent of their time to the work of the Panel, which translates to roughly 10 weeks a year, with significant international travel.

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