



EM/2016/43

15 November 2016

Dear IPBES Member and Observer States,

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of and commitment to the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). You may recall my letter, dated 14 September 2016 (EM/2016/38), inviting governments and relevant stakeholders to register as participants for the fifth session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-5), taking place from 6 to 10 March 2017, in Bonn, Germany.

I would like to thank all those who have already registered, but I would also like to inform you that the registration deadline has now been extended to 15 December 2016. Thus far, 136 government representatives from 70 governments (58 member States and 12 observer States) have already registered – less than half of all IPBES member States.

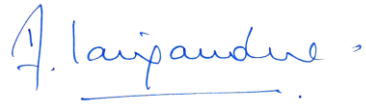
The IPBES secretariat will, upon request, provide financial support to cover travel expenses corresponding to the most economical and direct flights to Bonn, Germany for one government representative from each developing country. Delegates who are eligible for this financial support are especially encouraged to register on or before the 15 December 2016 deadline to allow sufficient time for travel arrangements to be concluded.

For the purpose of preparatory arrangements for the session, each delegate is requested to individually register by filling in the online registration form: <http://www.ipbes.net/eform/submit/registration-ipbes-5>

I wish to remind government representatives that, in line with the IPBES Rules of Procedure, and as with previous meetings, each member government is required to submit the official credentials of its representative, together with the names of alternate representatives and advisers, to the secretariat. The credentials must be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, consistent with each country's policy and law. Each government is encouraged to send a copy of these credentials to the secretariat in advance of the session, preferably by e-mail ([secretariat@ipbes.net](mailto:secretariat@ipbes.net)), and the original should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Only those governments that have submitted credentials issued by the above authorities may participate fully in the session.

Lastly, I would like to draw your attention to the dedicated webpage for the fifth IPBES Plenary session meeting documents, where you will find the [provisional agenda](#) and an [information note](#). Meeting documents will be updated and posted to this page as soon as they become available: <http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-5>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Larigauderie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anne Larigauderie  
Executive Secretary