

## Statement of the biodiversity-related Conventions

*Mr Chair, Ladies and Gentleman*

This statement is on behalf of CBD, CITES, CMS, ITPGRFA, Ramsar, and WHC.

Members of the Secretariats, and Chairs of scientific bodies, representing all six biodiversity-related Conventions have met together during this meeting. We all recognize the importance of IPBES for the implementation of the conventions, as well as the potential contribution of the Conventions to the work of IPBES.. We note further that the governing bodies of some of these conventions have already encouraged the development of this process and have welcomed the Busan Outcome.

We note that the Busan Outcome, in paragraph 6(a), envisages a role for the Conventions in conveying requests from governments to IPBES and that a process to receive and prioritize requests should be established. We also note that paragraph 7(a) of the Busan Outcome calls for the Platform to collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environmental agreements, to fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication.

The Conventions have an important role in setting the global agenda on biodiversity and ecosystem services. For example, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Targets provides a useful flexible framework for action by conventions and all stakeholders in this field. In addition, the scientific processes, using science to inform policy, under each of the Conventions may provide useful inputs to the work of IPBES. Finally, the work of IPBES at the sub-global level, and the implementation of the Conventions at the regional and national levels, can and should be mutually supportive, strengthening the application of science at these levels

For these reasons we believe that there should be strong linkages between the Platform and the Conventions.

It is important that the conventions can be represented by the secretariats and chairs of their scientific bodies in the plenary, and, as necessary in subsidiary bodies and/or through other consultative mechanisms. This should be taken into account as the principles and rules of the Platform are elaborated.

It is also important that there are clear mechanisms, in line with the Busan outcomes, that allow IPBES to be responsive to the need of governments as expressed through the conventions and allow the conventions to make contributions to the work of IPBES.

We stand ready to contribute, in due course and at the appropriate moment, with ideas and proposals on how this might be achieved. In doing so we will draw upon the experience of the relationship between the IPPC and the UNFCCC and its SBSTA, as well as other relevant experience.

*Mr Chair,*

We believe that by working closely together, IPBES and the Conventions can support our common objectives of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services for human well-being and also, contribute to a more coherent approach to international environmental governance and scientific overview, as well as building effective science-policy interfaces for biodiversity and ecosystem services at all levels. We are committed to doing our part towards this end.

Thank you.