

Decision IPBES-2/8: Collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme

The Plenary,

Having considered the note by the secretariat setting out a draft collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme,¹

1. *Approves* the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme set out in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme to approve the collaborative partnership arrangement.

Annex

Collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme

The present collaborative partnership arrangement is established among the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (hereinafter referred to as “the Plenary”) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (hereinafter referred to as “Organizations”). The Plenary and the Organizations are hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Partners”.

Noting that the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, at its first session, held in Bonn, Germany, from 21 to 26 January 2013, decided to request UNEP to provide the Platform’s secretariat and to request the Organizations to

¹ IPBES/2/15.

establish an institutional link with the Platform through a collaborative partnership arrangement for the work of the Platform and its secretariat;²

Acknowledging the role of the Organizations in the development and establishment of the Platform, and the relevance of the Organizations' respective mandates and programmes of work to the functions of the Platform;

Welcoming the intention of the present collaborative partnership arrangement to provide a framework for collaboration under which, inter alia, the Partners establish an institutional link between the Platform and the Organizations, whereby:

(a) The Partners coordinate relevant activities and cooperate in areas related to the functions of the Platform, further to and within their respective mandates;

(b) Dedicated capacity and secondments or otherwise assigned staff are made available by the Organizations to support the secretariat of the Platform;

(c) Technical and programmatic support is provided by the Organizations for the work programme of the Platform at the global and regional levels on issues related to the mandates and programmes of work of the Organizations;

(d) Joint fundraising is undertaken by the Partners to enable the activities of the Platform to be implemented;

(e) The communications activities of the Platform are supported by the communications capacity of the Organizations.

The Partners intend to collaborate as follows:

Implementation of the programme of work of the Platform

1. The Organizations contribute their expertise and experience to the implementation of the programme of work of the Platform.

2. Upon request by the Plenary, the Organizations may undertake special tasks or carry out activities for the Platform on the basis of terms of reference to be approved by the Partners and in accordance with the respective regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the Partners.

3. The Organizations contribute to the implementation of the work programme of the Platform by providing support to regional structures that may be established by the Platform.

Exchange of information

4. The Partners exchange information and consult each other on a regular basis on matters that are of direct relevance to the implementation of the programme of work of the Platform, as appropriate.

5. The Partners review the progress of joint or delegated tasks being carried out by them under this arrangement and plan future activities as deemed appropriate, responding to requests by the Plenary.

6. Prior to the publication of pre-session documents of the Platform prepared under the sole responsibility of the Platform's secretariat, the latter makes every effort to provide the Organizations with the opportunity to review them in a timely manner and as appropriate.

Attendance at meetings of the Platform

7. In order to support programmatic collaboration between the Partners the Organizations are invited to attend sessions of the Plenary. They may be invited to participate in meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Plenary, in accordance with the applicable rules and decisions of the Plenary.

² IPBES/1/12, annex V.

8. The Platform's secretariat informs the secretariats of the Organizations in a timely manner of meetings of the Plenary.

Staff

9. The Organizations provide and assign staff to the Platform's secretariat in line with the decisions and authorization of their respective management and/or governing bodies, taking into account the secretariat staffing structure and budget approved by the Plenary, and the need for technical support to implement the programme of work of the Platform.

10. The Executive Director of UNEP recruits the head of the Platform's secretariat, in consultation with the executive heads of UNESCO, FAO and UNDP and the Bureau of the Plenary. Other professional posts in the Platform's secretariat are filled through recruitment by the Executive Director of UNEP, in collaboration with the head of the Platform's secretariat and the executive heads of UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, or through secondment of dedicated staff from the Organizations.

Visibility

11. The role and contribution of the Organizations are acknowledged in all public information documentation and communication materials of the Platform, including meeting documentation, and the names and/or emblems of each of the Organizations are inserted in such documentation and communication materials alongside the name and/or emblem of the Platform.

Financial aspects

12. In the event of the delegation of special tasks by the Plenary to one or more of the Organizations or of a joint activity entailing expenditure beyond routine organizational expenditures, the Partners consult each other to determine the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources, including through the Organizations raising additional resources to support the activities of the Platform, in accordance with the Platform's rules of procedure.

13. Any resource mobilization carried out by the Partners in connection with the present collaborative partnership arrangement are carried out by mutual consent.

Reporting

14. The Partners regularly report to the Plenary and to the governing bodies of the Organizations on progress made in the implementation of the present collaborative partnership arrangement and, where necessary, seek further guidance and endorsement regarding new areas of cooperation.

15. The present collaborative partnership arrangement comes into operation once the Partners have approved it.