

IPBES 4

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22 - 28 February 2016

Opening statement

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IIFBES), composed of indigenous peoples and local community participants at IPBES, considers IPBES 4 as a critical point in guiding the work of IPBES towards becoming highly effective as a knowledge platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

At this meeting, we hope for the fullest and best possible engagements between IPBES members and its diverse stakeholders, which includes the distinct grouping of indigenous peoples and local communities,

Towards substantive guidance being made on the following agenda items:

- The approaches and mechanisms proposed on Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK);
- Examination of IPBES rules and procedures to address the challenges posed for the full consideration and inclusion of ILK in the over-all functions and work programme of the platform;
- Communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships.

We shall be making interventions during discussions on the specific agenda items of the work programme.

In closing, we would like to inform the meeting that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities have established a network of ILK Centres of Distinction composed of organizations that have had a long history of engaging within the United Nations system to deliver policy recommendations, implement projects and provide assessments, such as for biodiversity indicators and community-based monitoring systems.

Each Center has its own distinct activities and strengths which by working together can provide a more comprehensive set of inputs to assessments and support implementation of the decisions of this Platform. This network is a support mechanism for delivering inputs into IPBES by indigenous and local knowledge holders themselves, and can identify other relevant knowledge holders and experts in their regions and areas of expertise. The network is open-ended and will operate in a transparent manner to facilitate the contribution of diverse views and evidence from all regions.

Thank You