

BELGIAN SPEAKING NOTES AND POSITIONS, SBSTTA 17
CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONVENTION TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
SCIENCE POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES (IPBES) INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Speaking Notes

Thank you Mr Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

Belgium wishes to thank the Executive Secretary for preparing document SBSTTA/17/4 and its appendixes.

Belgium welcomes the apparently fruitful collaboration between CBD and IPBES following COP decision X/11, and opines that the CBD COP should take advantage of the work conducted under IPBES; This could be, as appropriate, by providing input in the work of IPBES, and considering relevant outcomes of the work through SBSTTA, while taking into account the specificities of both CBD and IPBES, bearing in mind that IPBES is an independent Platform, but especially while avoiding duplication of work between SBSTTA and IPBES. The latter is particularly relevant regarding work on the GBO and IPBES' proposed Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

We therefore look forward to seeing a continued collaboration between the SCBD and IPBES, in line with COP Decision XI/2, in the further development and implementation of IPBES' first and future work programs, in particular to ensure that the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, included in the draft IPBES work plan, adequately addresses the issues and requests included in COP decisions XI/2 and XI/3.

We should not forget that the first draft work programme for IPBES will be negotiated at its 2nd plenary meeting in Antalya, Turkey, in December 2013. This work programme would cover the period 2014-2018, and is the result of an elaborate intersessional process during which the CBD ES has provided significant input in line with COP Decision X/11.

Considering this timing, we feel that it is premature at this time to forward to IPBES the information prepared by the SCBD on scientific and technical needs identified for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the list of COP and COP/MOP decisions relevant for consideration in the IPBES work program and the list of potential elements derived from these decisions, insofar as the decisions on which these are based have not been retired (COP Decision X/14 and XI/12). Nevertheless, it may be relevant to bear this information in mind while formulating future requests by CBD to IPBES.

Regarding the possible links of future editions of GBO (post GBO-4) to IPBES, we again feel that it is premature to conclude on the matter. However, we suggest that an evaluation of GBO-4, when completed, in the light of the work of IPBES on the Global Assessment, should be conducted and presented to a meeting of SBSTTA prior to a meeting of COP, as appropriate.

We will submit some draft text in line with these concerns to the secretariat.

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Proposed elements for conclusion and/or draft decision

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

Other possible elements to be considered in the IPBES work program

The Conference of the Parties,

- 1) *Reiterates* that SCBD should continue collaboration with IPBES, in line with COP Decision XI/2, in the implementation of its first, and further development of its future work programs; in particular to ensure that a possible IPBES Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services adequately addresses the requests and issues raised in COP Decisions XI/2 and XI/3;
- 2) *Requests* the SCBD to consider while formulating requests to IPBES, and *invites* IPBES to take into account in the development of its future work program, further information on scientific and technical needs identified for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the list of COP and COP/MOP decisions not subject to retirement of decisions as per COP Decision X/14 and XI/12, relevant for consideration in the IPBES work program and the list of potential elements derived from these decisions as included under section III, paragraphs 24 through 30 of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/4.

Links of future editions of GBO to IPBES

- 3) *Requests* SBSTTA at its next meeting to evaluate the GBO process in the light of GBO 4 and the ongoing work of IPBES on a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services.