Statement from Vera Lucia Imperatriz-Fonseca

Co-Chair of the IPBES Assessment on Pollinators

for the 25th anniversary of the International Pollinators Initiative

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International Pollinators Initiative: 25 Years of Global Action

For 25 years, the International Pollinators Initiative (IPI) has united scientists, policymakers, and communities worldwide in the effort to protect pollinators — the bees, butterflies, birds, and other species that sustain our food systems and ecosystems.

Established through the São Paulo Declaration and launched at the 2000 UN Biodiversity Summit, the IPI has worked closely with key partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Together, they have advanced global research, guided policy development, and promoted citizen science to better understand and reverse pollinator declines.

Findings from major IPBES assessments have underscored the urgency of action, particularly in the Global South, and highlighted the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern science.

As climate change intensifies, renewed global collaboration is essential. The IPI calls for coordinated efforts to map pollinator populations, conserve genetic diversity, and strengthen international partnerships. These actions are vital to secure pollination — and the life it supports — for generations to come.