

Guidance document on the nomination and selection process for members of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP)

This guidance document has been produced by the Secretariat, based on the IPBES rules of procedure for the Plenary of the Platform, and on the functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform, and relevant decisions taken at the IPBES Plenaries. It is intended to provide guidance on the process for the proposal by IPBES Members, nomination by regions, and selection by the Plenary of the members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP).

The institutional arrangements of the Platform provide for a MEP that will carry out a set of scientific and technical functions described in Annex 1 to this document (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9). The rules of procedure for the Plenary of the Platform regarding the nomination, selection and election of the MEP members are set out in Annex I to decision IPBES-1/1 as amended by decision IPBES-2/1, and summarised below.

The members of the MEP are, in accordance with rule 25 of the rules of procedure for the Plenary, elected for their personal expertise, and are not intended to represent any particular region.

Rule 26 of the procedures requires that candidates for the Panel be proposed by members of the Platform for nomination by the regions and election by the Plenary. In the event that a region cannot agree on its nomination, the Plenary will decide. Each region will nominate five candidates for membership of the Panel taking into account disciplinary and gender balances.

The following criteria could according to the same rule be taken into account in nominating and selecting members of the Panel:

- (a) Scientific expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to both natural and social sciences and traditional and local knowledge among the members of the Panel;
- (b) Scientific, technical or policy expertise and knowledge of the main elements of the Platform's programme of work;
- (c) Experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes;
- (d) Ability to work in international scientific and policy processes.

I. Nominations

The secretariat of the Platform, in accordance with rule 27 of the procedures, invites members of the Platform to submit to the secretariat **on line nominations** (with accompanying curricula

vitae) of candidates for the Panel no less than four months before the scheduled election. The deadline for submissions of nominations to the secretariat prior to the sixth session of the IPBES Plenary has been set to **4 December 2017**. Nominations by IPBES members should be made by filling out the on-line form and upload curriculum vitae at this address: <https://www.ipbes.net/mepnominationform>

Curricula vitae should be up to date and submitted in English.

Names and Curricula vitae of all nominees will be made available on the IPBES web site by the IPBES secretariat, together with the name of the IPBES member who made the nomination. The Plenary can accept late nominations at its discretion.

The IPBES Plenary in decision IPBES-2/2 reiterated the need to ensure that the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel reflects regional, gender and disciplinary balance consistent with the rules of procedure, in particular rule 26. It also urged the regional groupings, in submitting nominations of Panel members, to take into account the need for gender balance and disciplinary diversity in order to attain an overall gender and disciplinary balance of the Panel. It emphasized that the final choice of the nominees of each regional grouping is the responsibility of that grouping.

In addition, the MEP would like to draw attention, based on lessons learnt, to:

1. the necessity for MEP members **to commit at least 20% of their time**, and at times more, which translates to roughly 10 weeks a year, with significant international travel;
2. the need to ensure that **nominees from developed countries have financial resources** at their disposal to attend two MEP meetings as well as several other IPBES workshops each year. IPBES does not provide financial support to attend meetings for MEP members from developed countries, including nationals or residents of European Union member States or experts nominated by European Union member States;
3. the need **to provide a pool of nominees including natural scientists, social scientists** (including in anthropology, economics, geography, law, political science, sociology), as well as **experts with experience on Indigenous and local knowledge**;
4. the possibility to select nominees from the pool of experts from completed assessments (pollination, scenario and models, land degradation and restoration, regional assessments) or expert groups (e.g. values, policy support, etc.), as they already have experience with IPBES.

II. Consultations on selection

The Plenary in decision IPBES 2/2 also:

- (a) Urged the regional groupings to begin consultations on possible nominees early and to engage with their respective Bureau members, as appropriate, to facilitate

- discussions within and across the regions in order to ensure a balanced Multidisciplinary Expert Panel;
- (b) Encouraged the regional groupings to solicit nominations for potential Panel candidates from the widest range of stakeholders;
 - (c) Encouraged each regional grouping to consider nominating for a further term from one to three current Panel members to ensure continuity within the Panel (please see Annex 2 on eligibility of departing MEP members).

In the nomination and selection process, IPBES members may want to consider the strong recommendation from the Bureau and the MEP to improve the disciplinary balance of the MEP, by nominating, in particular, more social scientists and to aim at a 50/50 gender balance.

IPBES members may also want to have regard to the operating principles of IPBES, in particular the following:

- (a) Recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- (b) Recognize the unique biodiversity and scientific knowledge thereof within and among regions and the need for the full and effective participation of developing countries and balanced regional representation and participation in its structure and work;
- (c) Take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including social and natural sciences;
- (d) Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work;
- (e) Address terrestrial, marine and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interactions.

Regional groupings are invited to consider the nominations received that will be made available on the IPBES website and in a working document for IPBES-6, and inform the Secretariat of their provisional candidates for MEP nomination **as soon as possible**. It will be useful to leave some flexibility in the nomination by each region of their final candidates based on a further consideration of the overall balance. We suggest that all regions may consider developing a shortlist of 5-10 candidates, which can be further reviewed during the regional consultations prior to the Plenary meeting.

Regions may want to engage in internal consultations within the region to ensure continuity and a satisfactory regional, gender and disciplinary balance of the MEP.

III. Election

In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure, the members of the Panel will be elected by the Plenary by consensus, unless the Plenary decides otherwise. If the Plenary decides to elect members of the Panel by vote:

- (a) The elections will be held during ordinary sessions of the Plenary;
- (b) Each member of the Plenary has one vote in the elections;
- (c) All elections will be decided by a majority of the members present and voting;
- (d) All elections will be held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Plenary;
- (e) After completion of the elections, the number of votes for each candidate and the number of abstentions will be recorded.

Annex 1

Extracts from the functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform relevant to the functions of the MEP (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, appendix I)

B. Administrative and scientific functions to facilitate the work of the Platform

13. One or more subsidiary bodies will be established by, and report to, the Plenary to support the smooth, effective and timely operation of the Platform. The subsidiary body or bodies will, as decided by the Plenary, provide administrative and scientific oversight and facilitate the operations of the Platform.

15. Such scientific and technical functions include:

- (a) Providing advice to the Plenary on scientific and technical aspects of the Platform's programme of work;
- (b) Providing advice and assistance on technical and/or scientific communication matters;
- (c) Managing the Platform's peer-review process to ensure the highest levels of scientific quality, independence and credibility for all products delivered by the Platform at all stages of the process;
- (d) Engaging the scientific community and other knowledge holders with the work programme, taking into account the need for different disciplines and types of knowledge, gender balance, and effective contribution and participation by experts from developing countries;
- (e) Assuring scientific and technical coordination among structures set up under the Platform and facilitating coordination between the Platform and other related processes to build upon existing efforts;
- (f) [Exploring approaches to facilitating the sharing and transfer of technology in the context of assessment, knowledge generation and capacity-building according to the work programme of the Platform;]
- (g) Exploring ways and means to bring different knowledge systems, including indigenous knowledge systems, into the science-policy interface.

C. Subsidiary bodies of the Plenary

16. The following subsidiary bodies of the Plenary will be established:

- (b) A Multidisciplinary Expert Panel that will carry out the scientific and technical functions listed above.

Annex 2

Eligibility of departing MEP members

According to rule 29 of the rules of procedure, the term of office of all the Panel members is 3 years with a possibility of re-election for one consecutive term. “Not eligible” in the table below refers to those MEP members who will have completed two consecutive mandates by the end of IPBES-6. “Eligible for a second term” refers to those MEP members who will have served one mandate either in part (marked with an asterisk), or in full, and are therefore eligible for a second term.

<u>Africa</u>		
Moustafa Ali Fouda	Not eligible	Biodiversity conservation, science-policy
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Egypt		
Mariteuw Chimère Diaw *	Eligible for a second term	Economic anthropology, rural sociology
African Model Forests Network, Cameroon		
Sebsebe Demissew	Not eligible	Botany, indigenous knowledge on use of plants
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia		
Jean-Bruno Mikissa	Not eligible	Animal ecology, wildlife protection
National School for Water and Forests, Gabon		
Voahangy Raharimalala	Eligible for a second term	Plant ecology, impact assessment
Office National pour l’Environnement, Madagascar		
<u>Asia Pacific</u>		
Yi Huang	Eligible for a second term	Freshwater ecology; rehabilitation
Peking University, China		
Vinod Mathur	Not eligible	Wildlife ecology, forestry, science-policy
Wildlife Institute of India, India		
Leng Guan Saw	Eligible for a second term	Plant taxonomy and ecology
Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, Malaysia		

Yoshihisa Shirayama	Not eligible	Marine biology and ecology, zoology
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Japan		
Rosichon Ubaidillah	Eligible for a second term	Entomology, taxonomy, evolution
Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Indonesia		
<u>Eastern Europe</u>		
Mersudin Avdibegović *	Eligible for a second term	Forest economics, forest policy, legislation
University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina		
Günay Erpul	Not eligible	Soil science, soil conservation
University of Ankara, Turkey		
Ruslan Novitsky	Eligible for a second term	Zoology, ecological impact assessment
National Academy of Science, Belarus		
Tamar Pataridze	Not eligible	Sociology, forest policy, conservation
Ministry of Environment Protection, Georgia		
Katalin Török *	Eligible for a second term	Plant ecology, monitoring, restoration, science-policy
Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary		
<u>Latin America and the Caribbean</u>		
Brigitte Baptiste	Eligible for a second term	Landscape ecology, biodiversity management, land use
Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Research on Biological Resources, Colombia		
Marcelo Cabido	Eligible for a second term	Plant ecology, community ecology
Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina		
Floyd Homer	Not eligible	Forest ecology, conservation, policy
The Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods, Trinidad and Tobago		
Carlos Joly	Not eligible	Plant biology, conservation, restoration, science-policy
State University of Campinas, Brazil		

Rodrigo Medellín	Eligible for a second term	Animal ecology, conservation, pollination, bats
University of Mexico, Mexico		
<u>Western Europe and Others Group</u>		
Paul Leadley	Not eligible	Plant ecology, scenarios and models, impact of climate change, science-policy
Université Paris-Sud XI, France		
Mark Lonsdale	Not eligible	Entomology, conservation and restoration ecology, invasive species
Monash University, Melbourne and Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia		
Unai Pascual	Eligible for a second term	Economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services, environmental governance and policy, climate change
Basque Centre for Climate Change, Spain		
Marie Roué	Eligible for a second term	Anthropology, science and indigenous knowledge
National Museum of Natural History, France		
Marie Stenseke	Eligible for a second term	Human and economic geography, landscape management
Gothenburg University, Sweden		