



Science and Policy  
for People and Nature



# Governance, Rules and Procedures of IPBES

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# Why Rules?

**Science-Policy interface at intergovernmental level:**  
*Balancing Science, Policy, and Politics*

Keep it CRELE:

- Scientific **credibility**
- Policy **relevance**
- Political **legitimacy**

=> transparency

# Governance

IPBES was established (Panama, April 2012):

- As an **independent intergovernmental body**
- With a **Plenary** as decision making body, by **consensus**
- With two subsidiary bodies (Bureau, MEP) and a Secretariat



# Institutional arrangements

## Main bodies:

- **Plenary:** governing body of IPBES
- **Bureau:** advises the Chair and the secretariat on the conduct of business of the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies
- **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP):** providing advice and assistance on all technical and scientific issues
- **Secretariat:** ensure the efficient functioning of IPBES through its support to the Plenary, Bureau and MEP, preparation of documents and organization of meetings, facilitation of communications, and financial management

## Decision making body of the Platform

- *Government Members* (currently 118 - UN member states, by “expressing their intend”)

and

- *Observers* (UN bodies (e.g., UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP), Intergov’tal organisations, NGOs,... , [following interim agreement])



# First Plenary

**Bonn, Germany**  
*January 2012*



# IPBES subsidiary bodies

**Bureau** – advises the Chair and the secretariat on the conduct of business of the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies

- *10 members (2 from each UN region including Chair and 4 Vice-Chairs)*
- *Term of office: 3+3 years*

“1. Candidates for the Bureau will be proposed by Government[s] [members] [members of the Platform] for nomination by regions and election by the Plenary.”

# IPBES Chair



- Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid was elected as the founding Chair of IPBES on 27 January 2013.



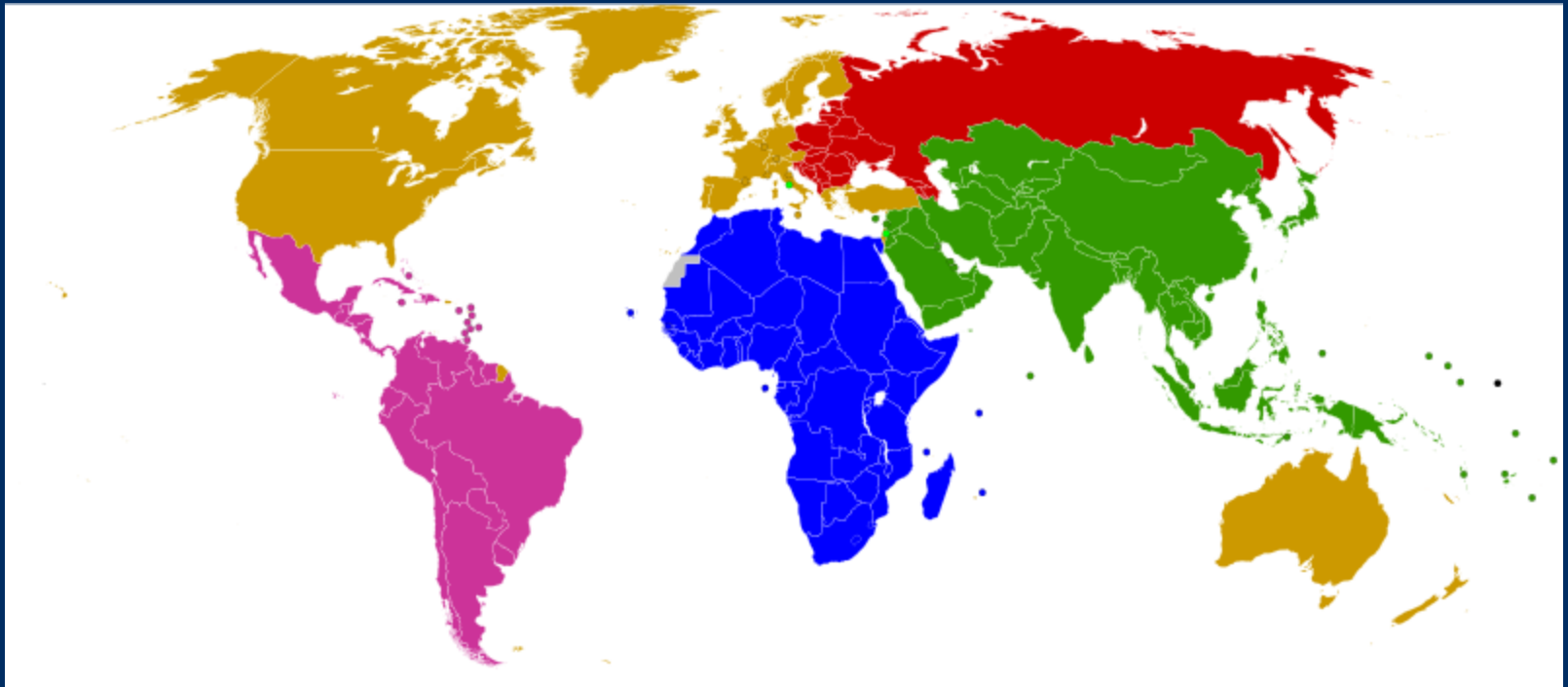
# IPBES subsidiary bodies

**Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP)** – overseeing scientific and technical functions; provides advice and assistance on all technical and scientific issues

- *Membership: 25 (5 from each UN region) and a number of observers (Bureau, Chairs of MEA scientific bodies, Chair of IPCC)*
- *Nomination by UN regions, based on personal expertise; election by Plenary by consensus*
- *Term of office: 2 years (Interim MEP); 3+3 yrs [alternating])*

# (UN Regional Groups)

5 UN regions: African Group, Asia-Pacific Group, Eastern European, GRULAC, WEOG)



# What rules do we have?

Rules on (non-exhaustive list):

- membership and functioning of the Bureau
- membership and functioning of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel
- rules of procedure for meetings of the Plenary
- process for making requests, inputs and suggestions
- process for development of the work programme
- Some procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables
- Financial and budgetary arrangements
- ...

# What rules do we have?

No agreement on (non exhaustive list):

- admission of observers
- Procedures, incl. clearance process for deliverables,
- Stakeholder engagement strategy
- 43 “[ ]” report of IPBES plenary 2
- ...



# Procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables





# Procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables

## 1. Definitions

- Governance Structures
- Deliverables (Reports, Assessment reports, Synthesis reports, Summary for policymakers, [technical summary], technical papers, supporting material)
- [Clearance Processes] (Validation, acceptance\*, adoption\*, approval\*,...)

## 2. Overview of clearance processes for IPBES deliverables

# Procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables

## 2. [Overview of clearance processes for IPBES deliverables]

Platform reports	Process validation	[Acceptance]	[Adoption]	[Approval]
<b>Assessments</b>				
• Thematic and methodological assessment reports (based on standard or fast-track approach)	MEP/Bureau	Plenary	N/A	N/A
• Thematic and methodological assessment SPMs (based on standard or fast-track approach)	MEP/Bureau	N/A	N/A	Plenary
• Regional/subregional/eco-regional assessment reports	MEP/Bureau	Regional Plenary/Plenary	N/A	N/A
• Regional/subregional/eco-regional assessment SPMs	MEP/Bureau	N/A	N/A	Regional Plenary/Plenary
• Global assessment reports	MEP/Bureau	Plenary	N/A	N/A
• Global assessment SPMs	MEP/Bureau	N/A	N/A	Plenary
<b>Synthesis reports</b>	MEP/Bureau	N/A	Plenary	N/A
<b>Synthesis SPMs</b>	MEP/Bureau	N/A	N/A	Plenary
<b>Technical papers</b>	MEP/Bureau	Authors and MEP	N/A	N/A
<b>Supporting materials</b>	MEP/Bureau	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 3. Procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables

- Standard approach for thematic or methodological assessments
- Fast-track approach for thematic and methodological assessments
- Approach for regional, subregional and global assessments
- Scoping in Preparation of Report Outlines
- General procedures for preparing Platform reports
- Preparation of reports
- Acceptance of reports by the Plenary
- Preparation and approval of summaries for policymakers
- [Approval and adoption of synthesis reports by the Plenary]
- Addressing possible errors and complaints

## Procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables

**4. Clearance process for technical papers**

**5. Platform supporting material**

**6. Workshops**

- Platform workshops
- Co-sponsored workshops

**7. Nomination and selection process for task forces**

## Procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables

**Annex I:** Tasks and responsibilities for report co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, contributing authors, review editors and expert reviewers of Platform reports and other deliverables, and for government-designated national focal points

**Annex II:** Draft process for scoping potential assessments

**[Annex III:** Summary schedule for assessment and synthesis reports: standard and fast track approaches]

**[Annex IV:** Procedure on the use of literature in Platform reports (to be developed)]

**[Annex V:** Procedure for recognition and incorporation of indigenous and local knowledge (to be developed)]





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