

## **FORUM OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

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### **CLOSING STATEMENT TO IPBES1**

**Delivered by Edna Kaptoyo, Indigenous Information Network, Kenya**

Participants representing organisations of indigenous peoples and local communities have observed IPBES1 proceedings with great interest, and also some concern.

1. We welcome the inclusion of indigenous knowledge and local knowledge in the work of programme of IPBES and thank the governments of Japan and Germany for offering to host workshops about the inclusion of diverse knowledge systems in the conceptual frameworks, functions and the work programme of IPBES, including procedures for collaboration across knowledge systems.
2. We are gratified by the strong interest and engagement shown by participants at this meeting during the side event on Indigenous and Local Knowledge. Issues of multiple scales, recognising the full breadth of local knowledges, diverse rationalities and conceptual approaches, and challenges in inter-knowledge exchanges and collaboration were highlighted in the discussions.
3. We welcome the selection of the Multi-Disciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and the start of its work. The absence of indigenous knowledge holders in the MEP is extremely disappointing and must be addressed. Lessons need to be learned in ensuring broad multidisciplinary expertise in this body. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities should be able to nominate experts to be included in the selection process for the MEP, and inclusion of such expertise in the MEP should be guaranteed.
4. Indigenous peoples as rights-holders and knowledge holders are indispensable partners of IPBES. An effective Stakeholders Engagement Strategy ensuring our full and effective participation, together with other stakeholders, in all IPBES work and structures, must be embraced as a cornerstone for IPBES success.
5. We will work with our existing networks and organisations for the success of this common endeavour.