



**Remarks by Dr. Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of the
Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

**UN Talk, Celebrating UN Day and 20 Years of the UN in Bonn
Bonn, Germany, 28 October 2016**

Good evening – and thank you so much for the chance to share a few thoughts with you all tonight.

IPBES is very fortunate to be part of the UN family here in Bonn. Although we're celebrating 20 years of collective collaboration and achievement, we are only a little over four years old ourselves as an organization – and we have really benefitted from the experience and support of our sister agencies, the City of Bonn – which has always been a champion of sustainability, and the warm hospitality of the German Federal Government.

To many people words like biodiversity and ecosystem services *seem* very academic. They are not often talked about over coffee in the way that poverty might be, or human rights or refugees or climate change.

But biodiversity and the benefits of nature to people actually hit closer to home. They underpin almost every aspect of human development – helping to produce the food we eat, clean water to drink, regulate climate and even control disease.

In fact, they are the essential elements for success on every one of the 17 SDGs – not only SDGs 14 and 15 about “life under water” and “life on land”. Yet they are being depleted and degraded faster than at any point in human history.

The purpose of IPBES is to inform policymakers in government, in business and across communities – what the best science tells us about our planet's species, its natural systems and the benefits these provide to people.

We do this in three main ways:

1. We bring together leading scientists from around the world to **produce scientific reports on the state of our knowledge**– such as our most recent assessment on *Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production*.
2. We **provide policy support** by identifying tools and methods that will help those in authority to make better-informed decisions.
3. We **build capacity and knowledge** to meet the needs of all our stakeholders.

The object that I have brought with me today is a wonderful colour portrait of a bee. It is part of a limited edition produced for IPBES to celebrate the completion of our first assessment – and it represents, in so many ways, why our work is key for all the SDGs: it's as factually accurate as possible;

it reminds us of the incredible importance of even the smallest parts of nature for human well-being; and it is a work of beauty to be celebrated in and of its own right.

The IPBES mission is to help those whose decisions impact nature to make better choices through better science and wider understanding. As our slogan says – “Science and Policy for People and Nature”.

Thank you again and I look really forward to our discussion later in the programme.

Enquiries: Rob Spaul – IPBES Head of Communications

Mobile: +49 (0) 174 356 6551

Email: media@ipbes.net

Web: www.ipbes.net

Twitter: @IPBES