

Scientific and Technological Community

First Intersessional Meeting– Rio+20 Preparations

Statement for session on Institutional Framework, Tuesday, 12 January 2012

Mr. Co-chair,

Speaking on behalf of the Scientific and Technological Community, I have a comment and a question. Here is my comment.

Both, international environmental governance institutions and the institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels – for policy making and implementation - , require access to the best scientific knowledge and engineering expertise available, including of course knowledge in the social and economic sciences, as well as interaction with research communities worldwide.

Enhancing these institutions implies improving mechanisms for scientific input and advice, as well as creating effective mechanisms for a strong science – policy interaction and science based decision-making

In this context, we welcome the recent decision to establish the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity Expertise and Policy (IPBES) to provide the science base for the implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity.

One last point: It must be ensured that scientific assessments and advice does involve scientists from developing and developed countries alike. International environmental and sustainable development institutions should support enhancing capacity building in developing countries, including scientific and technological capacity. Similarly, these institutions should support in a pro-active manner sharing of knowledge and of appropriate technologies, both North-South and South-South.

My question to the panellists is what roles they see for science and technology in the institutional arrangements for sustainable development and how to address the North –South divide in scientific and technological institutional capacity?

Thank you.