

Thursday, August 28, 2025

BBNJ PrepCom II Afternoon session: CR4 – Cooperation with IFBs

Canada's e-statement:

Q1. Canada is supportive of the co-chairs efforts to develop a draft decision for the COP to adopt at its first meeting.

Q2. The draft decision should be framed as general guidance to enable cooperation, coordination, and coherence with IFBs in a manner that is as flexible and as inclusive as possible in order to support the general objective of the Agreement which is to be implemented through further international cooperation and coordination as stated in Art 2.

As part of the draft decision, the COP and its subsidiary bodies should adopt an open-door policy to ensure relevant IFBs can freely participate where their participation is provided in the Agreement.

Also, we would oppose developing and adopting any type of formal list of relevant IFBs, and even more so – we strongly oppose any proposals to undertake prioritization or to divide any IFBs into tiers 1 and 2 for a variety of valid reasons.

We agree with others that draft decision should provide for cooperation, collaboration, coordination, consultations and information exchange as reflected in various parts of the Agreement. These processes should be undertaken with full consideration and alignment with procedures, processes, capacities, timelines and calendars of relevant IFBs in order to minimize administrative burden on IFBs.

Any arrangements and approaches proposed as part of the draft decision should be inclusive and any specific types of arrangements developed to establish, foster and operationalize cooperation, collaboration and coordination with specific relevant IFBs should be developed together with them.

Furthermore, the draft decision should provide for the development of arrangements to enhance cooperation following a three-pronged approach which includes:

- promoting high-level governance dialogue,
- enabling secretariat-level coordination, and
- fostering scientific and technical collaboration.

Finally, arrangements should empower the Secretariat to engage in informal coordination and consultations, and where appropriate and mandated by the COP, to engage in formal coordination and consultations.