



# High Seas Alliance PrepCom 2 Interventions

Name of meeting: BBNJ PrepCom

Date of delivery: 21 August 2025

Speaker: High Seas Alliance

## Intervention on Item 5, IFBs CR4

**Thursday 21 August**

On question 3, PrepCom should provide the following guidance and recommendations to the COP, which can form part of the Co-chairs' suggested draft decision on PrepCom on principles for interactions and engagement with IFBs.

We believe that discussions on cooperation and collaboration with relevant IFBs should be guided first and foremost by the objective of advancing the BBNJ Agreement in the most efficient way.

To achieve efficiency, we suggest the following:

- Prioritize establishing modalities for the time-bound consultations explicitly mentioned in the Agreement, and while retaining flexibility, and avoiding reliance on bilateral processes.
- Avoid setting additional waiting periods to align with every IFB's meeting schedule.
- As mentioned in our previous intervention we believe the CITES 120 days is a realistic period for consultation.
- All BBNJ subsidiary bodies should have the ability to engage in cooperation and collaboration with relevant IFBs as needed, without needing COP approval for each engagement. Moreover, this collaboration should not be restricted to their direct counterparts under IFBs, but should extend to other bodies under the relevant IFBs, where appropriate. Subsidiary bodies should also retain flexibility to determine the format of cooperation based on the specific purpose and available resources.

Thank you