



# PHILIPPINES

## STATEMENT

**Arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies (IFBs)  
(Cluster I: Issue 6)**

### **SECOND PREPARATORY COMMISSION**

**Delivered by  
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**Excellencies, colleagues,**

The BBNJ Agreement does not operate in isolation.

The Agreement provides for cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies underscoring the non-undermining, coordination and coherence principle. Cooperation may be through assistance, coordination, consultation, collaboration and information exchange. We hope to see flexible but effective cooperation arrangements with IFBs that ensure complementarity to bring forth capacity-building, funding, and equitable access.

On this note, for the first session of the COP, the PrepCom should recommend a strategic and yet flexible approach to operationalizing cooperation with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies (IFBs) under the BBNJ Agreement, emphasizing coordination and coherence, and acknowledging that cooperation will need to be continuously evaluated and adjusted to account for developments under the Agreement and the relevant IFBs. The COP's first decision on cooperation with IFBs could include both specific arrangements with identified IFBs on certain related mandates, and a general principles-based framework to guide future arrangements.

The foundation could be laid at COP-1 through a decision that requests the secretariat to organize a workshop or to commission a study on the relationships between the Agreement and relevant IFBs, and to coordinate with the secretariats of relevant IFBs on matters such as programs of work, and clearing-house mechanisms, where applicable. These could also inform the forms of cooperation that the SBs would undertake later on. The modalities to be adopted would have to be determined taking into account best practices adopted by each relevant IFB.

Early implementation should prioritize cooperation with IFBs such as UNESCO-IOC, CBD, ISA, FAO, IMO, UNEP-WCMC, and regional bodies like COBSEA and SEAFDEC. We echo Indonesia on the role of bodies covering regional seas, such as the COBSEA and CTI-CFF, in the establishment of ABMTs. It would also be particularly helpful to build on ongoing cooperation processes such as the Bern process for biodiversity-related conventions. Also, there should be effective coordination with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to ensure complementary management measures and integration of data sharing and scientific research in decision-making.

Cooperation arrangements should be tailored—formal or informal, continuous or ad hoc—with clear mandates, shared responsibilities, minimal cost implications, and strong inclusivity to support developing states parties, including archipelagic states. This may be in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the BBNJ Secretariat and IFBs (e.g., FAO for fisheries and ISA for seabed activities), or through exploring joint scientific and technical cooperation to share data and best practices and avoid duplication.

For inclusivity, the Philippines recommends participation of IFBs in COP meetings as observers.

Thank you. END.