



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Statement on behalf of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

at the

Second session of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement

18-29 August 2025, New York, USA

Delivered on 20 August, Wednesday, PM at CR 2

Item 2 (Arrangements to enhance cooperation with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies)

Thank you, Co-Chair

CBD Secretariat has two decades of history in providing scientific and technical inputs and facilitating cooperation to contribute to the BBNJ process, as guided by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

In response to the request from DOALOS, CBD Secretariat has provided written inputs on the summary of cooperative arrangements under CBD with relevant instruments, frameworks and bodies. We greatly appreciate the document compiled by DOALOS.

Without repeating the information reflected in this document, allow me to update you with a few specific examples, relevant to BBNJ, to provide some insights for your deliberations.

First update is on scientific and technical cooperation in the form of convening an expert workshop.

In decision 16/17 (para 11), the COP to CBD requested the Executive Secretary to convene an expert workshop on opportunities for specific areas, including cross-sectoral areas, of scientific and technical work under the CBD to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Pursuant to this request CBD Secretariat is convening an Expert workshop, which will be held 2 – 5 December 2025, Bergen, Norway, with financial support from Norway, Ireland, Germany, Sweden. Notification 2025-102 (<https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-102>) has been issued, calling for the nomination of experts to join the workshop, with a deadline for nominations on 15 September 2025.

While it is still being developed, the workshop may discuss a wide range of work under the CBD relevant to BBNJ, including on: EBSAs and area-based conservation; Biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessments; Guidance on various pressures on marine biodiversity; Mainstreaming biodiversity in various sectors; Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources; Digital sequence information; Capacity-building and development; Knowledge management; Facilitating coordination and cooperation across global and regional bodies and organizations. We invite your active participation in this workshop.

Another update is on Informal Process to facilitate the cross-sectoral cooperation in the framework of Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with regional seas organizations (RSOs) and regional fishery



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 | secretariat@cbd.int
www.cbd.int



bodies (RFBs) (see <https://www.cbd.int/soi/>). In response to the various requests by COP since COP 10 for capacity building and cooperation on marine and coastal biodiversity, the SOI Global Dialogue was convened in 2016 by the CBD Secretariat, together with UNEP and FAO, to strengthen regional cross-sectoral cooperation in support of national-level implementation and the achievement of global biodiversity targets and SDGs.

It provides a unique platform that brings together key global and regional bodies to identify means and opportunities for improved cooperation at the global and regional levels, in order to better support respective member States in achieving global biodiversity goals and targets. Participants include representatives of RSOs, RFBs, and relevant UN agencies and international organizations and initiatives. Since its launch in 2016, there have been four meetings of the SOI Global Dialogue (one every two years), three intersessional workshops, and three meetings of the informal working group, with financial support from Japan, France, RO Korea, Sweden, EU and Monaco.

Through these meetings, the SOI Global Dialogue has catalyzed improved cooperation between RSOs and RFBs on issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. It has identified tangible opportunities to improve cross-sectoral collaboration, within and across regions, and outlined the roles of regional organizations in supporting global commitments for fisheries, environment, biodiversity and sustainable development. For example, in the Global Dialogue meeting held last year in collaboration with DOASOS, participants discussed key challenges, opportunities and priority actions for global and regional organizations to support the entry into force and future implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. Likewise, the recent intersessional workshop on the margins of UNOC-3 in June 2025 participants discussed the role of regional organizations in supporting the BBNJ PrepCom discussions as well as cooperation among relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies. It is hoped that the SOI Global Dialogue can continue to provide an informal platform to foster regional cross-sectoral cooperation to achieve global goals and targets for the ocean, including the BBNJ Agreement.

CBD Secretariat stands ready to provide further information on our experiences and lessons learned in cooperation with various IFBs to contribute to the implementation of BBNJ.

I will submit the statement in writing, including a briefing document on the work under the CBD, relevant to BBNJ (can be downloaded at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-bbnj-booklet-en.pdf>).

Thank you.