

SBSTA 63 agenda item 15
Cooperation with other international organizations

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Areas of interest, prepared by the Chairs of the SBSTA, and submissions made during this session

Areas of interest, prepared by the Chairs:

- Sustainability of discussion under this agenda item, including frequency, modalities, and expectation of outcomes;
- Improved modalities of work, including scope and activities, with an aim for the discussion under this agenda item to be more substantive, with a view to providing practical and strategic guidance for cooperation actions;
- Possible additional space to carry out substantive work;
- Recommendations on key priority areas in which the cooperative efforts need to be strengthened;
- Increased and enhanced engagement among the three Rio Convention secretariats, including strengthening the role and functions of the Rio Convention Joint Liaison Group.

Submission by EIG to SBSTA 15 Cooperation with other international organizations:

- Create a space for continuous discussions to enhance cooperation among the Rio Conventions and other international organization's conventions & frameworks. This should be done by keeping the SBSTA agenda item 15 open at every session.
- The continuous process set up should ensure substantive exchanges going beyond merely noting the Secretariate's report.
- The establishment of a process to come up with a set of recommendations on how to enhance cooperation and policy coherence among the Rio conventions and other relevant international organizations and frameworks. This could be by establishing a temporary group of technical experts nominated by parties and ensuring a regional balance or other similar arrangements taking into consideration available resources.
- The process should make use of existing mechanisms as far as possible, including the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) which already has mandates from the CBD and the UNCCD to enhance cooperation and explore options for a joint work programme.

Submission by Colombia:

Elements for a Draft Decision on Agenda Item 15: Cooperation with other international organizations

Context and Rationale

Colombia supports ensuring that this agenda item serves as a space for having substantive discussions on how to strengthen international cooperation with other organizations for the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including — and particularly — the cooperation among the three Rio Conventions. Colombia, as current President of the CBD COP16, attaches particular importance to strengthening the international cooperation among the three Rio Conventions — the UNFCCC, the CBD, and the UNCCD — recognizing that climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification are interconnected challenges requiring coherent and mutually supportive responses.

Recent decisions under the CBD and UNCCD, including CBD Decisions 15/4 and 16/22 and UNCCD Decision 8/COP.16, call for enhanced cooperation among the Rio Conventions and provide a solid basis for complementary, non-prescriptive efforts under the UNFCCC. Colombia believes the UNFCCC can build on these mandates and collaborate with the COP Presidencies of the CBD

and the UNCCD to foster coherence while fully respecting the mandates and institutional structures of each Convention.

Objective

The expected outcome for Colombia at this COP is a decision that elevates this agenda item from being primarily procedural to one that enables substantive discussions and substantive recommendations on how to advance cooperation with other international organizations.

Colombia's Key elements for a draft decision on Item 15

Colombia considers that a balanced, non-prescriptive COP decision should include:

- Maintaining the SBSTA agenda item open at every session, allowing continuous and constructive discussions on cooperation with international organizations.
- Enabling substantive exchanges under this agenda item, moving beyond merely noting a Secretariat report towards generating substantive recommendations on cooperation for implementation, including and particularly among the Rio Conventions.
- Establishing a limited, time-bound, and targeted expert process, with regional balance, with modalities subject to the availability of resources, to identify recommendations for enhancing international cooperation for the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
- Ensuring that this process is guided by a people-centered approach, has a facilitative and non-prescriptive nature, respects the individual mandates of each Convention, acknowledges the existing gap between available and required resources to meet the goals of the three Rio Conventions, and safeguards the institutional integrity of each Convention and its Secretariat.
- Building on existing mechanisms, rather than creating new ones, particularly by strengthening the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of the Rio Conventions. The JLG already operates under mandates from the CBD and UNCCD to enhance cooperation and explore options for a joint work programme. Under the UNFCCC, this would mean aligning with and contributing to those existing mandates agreed by consensus, while ensuring that the institutional arrangements, mandates, and secretariats of each Convention remain distinct.

EU submission on SBSTA item 15 – Cooperation with other International Organizations:

As EU we would suggest the following bullet points as a structure for the proposed text by the SBSTA chair on this item.

- SBSTA concludes that Parties agreed to use SBSTA item 15 on 'Cooperation with other International Organizations' for substantive discussions, moving beyond taking note of the annual report by the secretariat on cooperative activities. This substantial work is to be seen in the context of implementing the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. The item should be a recurrent item on the SBSTA agenda.
- The item should provide for information sessions with involvement of the relevant international organizations to allow discussion with Parties and Observers on how to strengthen international cooperation. The annual report of the UNFCCC secretariat on cooperative activities can serve as a basis. The scope of the discussion should be similar to the report and hence potentially cover the full range of cooperative activities.
- The discussion should particularly have the purpose of exchanging information, sharing good practices, including at national and subnational level, and lessons learned and exploring how to strengthen international cooperation with the different international organizations.
- The SBSTA should recognize the need for further technical work.

- Regarding synergies among Rio Conventions, the Paris Agreement and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, SBSTA should work on guidance towards the secretariat, particularly on:
 - Strengthening the Joint Liaison Group including by increasing its transparency and its engagement with and reporting to Parties
 - Contributing to technical information exchanges organized by the Rio convention secretariats to strengthen cooperation on areas such as science, integrated approaches at the national and subnational level, issues on transparency, finance and advancing gender equality and human rights, and the role of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities.

Legal text on synergies at SBSTA63, COP30 from The Gambia

Agenda Item 15: Cooperation with other international organizations

Preambular paragraphs:

Recognizing that climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, desertification, and land degradation are deeply connected and must be urgently addressed to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Further recognizing the importance of strengthening coordination between climate, biodiversity, and land degradation agendas to maximize synergies, especially including biodiversity and wildlife, and enhancing the ability of countries to accelerate climate action and more effectively fulfill their commitments under their NDCs and NAPs.

Emphasizing the essential functional role of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, including wild animals, in underpinning the integrity of ecosystems and ecosystem services and that protecting and restoring the ecological integrity of all ecosystems and degraded lands are critical mitigation and adaptation actions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular when the worldviews, knowledge, governance and stewardship practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are integrated.

Noting that recent submissions highlight promising areas for enhanced collaboration with United Nations entities and other international organizations that contribute to the work under the Convention, such as food systems transformation and the protection and restoration of wildlife and ecosystems.

Acknowledging that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity

Recognizing decision CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 (CBD COP15), which adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly its Target 8, minimizing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Recognizing decision CBD/COP/DEC/16/22 (CBD COP16) and decision 8/COP.16 (UNCCD COP16), which addressed the strengthening of synergies among the Rio Conventions and the progress made since the adoption of these decisions.

Operative paragraphs

1. Decides to establish and maintain a dedicated space under the SBSTA agenda item “Cooperation with Other International Organizations” for discussions aimed at recommending actions to promote cooperation and synergies among the Rio Conventions, as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to collaborate on:

- a. Strengthening the role and function of the Joint Liaison Group, including increasing engagement, transparency, and reporting from the Joint Liaison Group to Parties.
 - b. The organization of technical information exchanges to further discuss options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence and synergies across the Rio conventions and subsequently support the development of a multilevel road map with short, medium, and long-term actions for enhancing policy coherence, and to report its findings to Parties at the thirty-first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 - c. Identify, utilizing input from NGOs and academia, synergistic work areas for delivery under the Joint Liaison Group, including areas such as food systems transformation and the protection and restoration of wildlife and ecosystems.
3. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) under the SBSTA, with a mandate until the 32nd Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, to develop recommendations for consideration by SBSTA 64 and SBI 64 and other relevant UNFCCC bodies, with a view to:
 - a. Reviewing existing cooperation agreements and UNFCCC processes related to collaboration with the other Rio Conventions.
 - b. Identifying barriers and capacity gaps to effective coordination among the Rio Conventions at multilateral and national levels.
 - c. Identifying further opportunities to enhance policy coherence and address the barriers identified, both within existing structures and through potential new mechanisms or institutional arrangements, as appropriate, based on consultations and technical meetings with Parties and observers, including through submissions.
 - d. Facilitating regular exchange and collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG) and ensuring that the AHTEG's recommendations and findings are aligned with and support the work of the Joint Liaison Group.
4. Invites the UNFCCC Secretariat to engage with the efforts initiated by CBD COP16 and UNCCD COP16 decisions on synergies among the Rio Conventions, with a view to strengthening policy coherence across the three Conventions.
5. Invites Parties to consider opportunities for furthering international cooperation opportunities for policy coherence under the Rio Conventions, including a potential joint work programme, including areas such as food systems transformation and the protection and restoration of wildlife and ecosystems.

Submission from Kiribati to the UNFCCC Secretariat

SBSTA Agenda Item 15

14 November 2025

Kiribati, as a State Party, conveys its appreciation to the SBSTA Chair, the Secretariat, Parties and observers for the constructive and productive discussions over the past years, particularly since SBSTA 62.

We welcome the overwhelming support expressed at this COP for concrete progress in strengthening synergies across the Rio Conventions and related multilateral environmental agreements—ranging from global policy alignment to national planning, reporting and implementation. We are further encouraged by the positive views expressed by Colombia, Brazil, the European Union and its 27 Member States, Palau and various SIDS, the Gambia and members of the AGN, LDCs and G77+China, as well as Australia, Mexico, Mongolia, Japan, Panama and many others, within negotiations and during ministerial engagements.

At the birthplace of the Rio Conventions, Kiribati joins many Parties in calling for substantive progress at this COP, capitalising on the unprecedented momentum to advance strengthened synergies and avoid delays in urgently needed action.

Accordingly, Kiribati respectfully requests the SBSTA Chair to:

1. Highlight in the Chair's text the five-bullet-point summary presented on 13 November, ensuring it reflects key views expressed in negotiations this week and in submissions, and to secure concrete outcomes at COP30 to strengthen the Joint Liaison Group.
2. Include the resulting text in the Chair's report to the 15 November plenary, enabling continued negotiation in Week 2.
3. Address the sustainability of discussions under this agenda item, including frequency, modalities and expectations of outcomes.
4. Consider improved modalities of work, including scope and activities, with a view to ensuring more substantive discussions capable of providing practical and strategic guidance for cooperation actions.
5. Provide additional space for substantive work under this agenda item.
6. Include recommendations on priority areas where cooperation actions and efforts need to be strengthened.
7. Support increased and enhanced engagement among the three Rio Conventions Secretariats—CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD—including strengthened roles and functions of the Joint Liaison Group.

Kiribati submits this for the consideration of the SBSTA Chair and the Secretariat.

Liberia's Position

SBSTA agenda item 15-Cooperation with Other International Organizations

Submission

We would like to start by thanking the SBSTA chair, Secretariat, Parties and observers for the productive discussions and exchanges for the past years, in particular, since SB62. We are pleased to see the overwhelming support for concrete progress at this COP in strengthening synergies across the Rio Conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, from global policy to national planning and reporting, as well as implementation.

We are delighted to see Colombia, Brazil, EU and its 27 member states, Palau and various SIDS, Gambia and various members of AGN, LDC and G77+China, Australia, Mexico, Mongolia, Japan, Panama and many more express positive views, within negotiations and at events such as ministerials.

At the birth country of the Rio Conventions, we join many Parties in calling for substantive progress at this COP, utilising the unprecedented momentum to act on strengthening synergies and avoid delaying the much-needed progress. In particular, requests the SBSTA Chair to:

- Highlight the 5-bullet point summary (below for reference) presented by the Chair on 13 November in the Chair's text, also capturing key views from the negotiations this week, the submissions, as well as relevant decisions across the Rio Conventions. In particular, secure concrete outcomes at COP30 to strengthen the Joint Liaison Group
- Include the text produced in the Chair's report to the 15 November plenary, for further negotiation in Week 2

Submission of the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius would like to start by thanking the SBSTA chair, Secretariat, Parties and observers for the productive discussions and exchanges for the past years, in particular, since SB62.

The overwhelming support for concrete progress at this COP is encouraging for the strengthening of synergies across the Rio Conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, from global policy to national planning and reporting, as well as implementation.

The Republic of Mauritius is delighted to see Brazil, EU and its 27 member states, Palau and various other SIDS, members of AGN, and G77+China, and many more express positive views, within negotiations and as well as at other events on this important matter.

We join Parties in calling for substantive progress at this COP, utilising the unprecedented momentum to act on strengthening synergies and avoid delaying the much needed progress. In particular, Mauritius requests the SBSTA Chair to include the following elements in the text that it has been mandated to prepare:

- Ensure sustainability of discussion under this agenda item;
- Consider modalities of work, including scope and activities with a view to providing space for more substantive discussion with a view to providing practical and strategic guidance for cooperation actions;
- Make recommendations on key priority areas in which the cooperative efforts will be strengthened
- Ensure increased and enhanced engagement among the three Rio Convention secretariats, including strengthening the role and functions of the Rio Convention Joint Liaison Group
- Clearly highlight the interdependency and linkage between climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, desertification, and land degradation;
- Underline that protecting and restoring the ecological integrity of all ecosystems and degraded lands contribute to mitigation and adaptation actions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

Submission by Mongolia:

Agenda Item 15: Cooperation with other international organisations

Preambular paragraphs:

Recognizing that climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, desertification, and land degradation are interdependent and need to be addressed urgently and in a coherent and balanced manner to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Further recognizing the importance of strengthening coordination between climate, biodiversity and land degradation agendas to maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs, and enhancing the ability of countries to accelerate climate action and more effectively fulfill their commitments under their NDCs and NAPs.

Acknowledging that ecosystem-based approaches, including the sustainable management and restoration of drylands, forests, rangelands, wetlands and other natural systems, are among the most cost-effective solutions delivering simultaneous climate, biodiversity and land-related benefits;

Emphasizing the essential functional role of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, in underpinning the integrity of ecosystems and ecosystem services and that protecting and restoring the ecological integrity of all ecosystems and degraded lands are critical mitigation and adaptation actions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular when the worldviews, knowledge, governance and stewardship practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are integrated.

Acknowledging that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity

Reaffirming decision 1/CMA.5 on the Global Stocktake, adopted at COP28, underscoring the importance of conserving, protecting, and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the

Paris Agreement goals, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and calling for enhanced cooperation under the Rio Conventions;

Recognizing decision CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 (CBD COP15), which adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly its Target 8, on minimizing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

Recognizing decision CBD/COP/DEC/16/22 (CBD COP16) and decision 8/COP.16 (UNCCD COP16), which addressed the strengthening of synergies among the Rio Conventions and the progress made since the adoption of these decisions;

Operative paragraphs

1. Decides to establish and maintain a dedicated space under the SBSTA agenda item “Cooperation with Other International Organizations” for discussions aimed at recommending actions to promote cooperation and synergies among the Rio Conventions, as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to collaborate on:
 - a. Strengthening the role and function of the Joint Liaison Group, including increasing engagement, transparency and reporting from the Joint Liaison Group to Parties;
 - b. The organization of technical information exchanges to further discuss options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence and synergies across the Rio conventions, and subsequently support the development of a multilevel road map with short, medium and long-term actions for enhancing policy coherence, and to report its finding to Parties at the thirty-first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
3. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) under the SBSTA, with a mandate until the 32nd Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, to develop recommendations for consideration by SBSTA 64 and SBI 64 and other relevant UNFCCC bodies, with a view to:
 - a. Reviewing existing cooperation agreements and UNFCCC processes related to collaboration with the other Rio Conventions;
 - b. Identifying barriers and capacity gaps to effective coordination among the Rio Conventions at multilateral and national levels;
 - c. Identifying further opportunities to enhance policy coherence and address the barriers identified, both within existing structures and through potential new mechanisms or institutional arrangements, as appropriate, based on consultations and technical meetings with Parties and observers, including through submissions;
 - d. Facilitating regular exchange and collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG), and ensuring that the AHTEG’s recommendations and findings are aligned with and support the work of the Joint Liaison Group.
4. Invites the UNFCCC Secretariat to engage with the efforts initiated by CBD COP16 and UNCCD COP16 decisions on synergies among the Rio Conventions, with a view to strengthening policy coherence across the three Conventions.
5. Invites Parties to consider opportunities for furthering international cooperation opportunities for policy coherence under the Rio Conventions, including a potential joint work programme.
6. Encourages Parties to strengthen national coordination mechanisms among their focal points of the three Rio Conventions, including by developing or enhancing integrated planning, monitoring, and reporting systems that support coherent implementation of climate, biodiversity and land policies;

7. Requests the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to give particular attention to the circumstances and needs of developing country Parties, including those with dryland and rangeland ecosystems, high land-degradation vulnerability, or limited institutional and technical capacity, when developing recommendations on enhancing cooperation across the Rio Conventions;
8. Invites relevant international organizations and operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance support for integrated and synergistic approaches that deliver climate, biodiversity and land-related benefits, including ecosystem-based approaches, sustainable land and water management, and nature-positive adaptation and mitigation actions;
9. Encourages the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions to strengthen coordination in supporting Parties in their development of NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and related strategies, including by promoting methodological coherence, common indicators where feasible, and improved access to data and tools;
10. Invites Parties and observers to share best practices, case studies and lessons learned on achieving synergies among the Rio Conventions, including governance models, institutional arrangements, and integrated landscape and ecosystem management approaches, to inform the work of SBSTA, SBI and the AHTEG;

Suggested legal text on synergies at SBSTA63, COP30 from Zimbabwe

Agenda Item 15: Cooperation with other international organisations

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Recognizing that climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, desertification, and land degradation are deeply connected and must be urgently addressed to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Further recognizing the importance of strengthening coordination between climate, biodiversity and land degradation agendas to maximize synergies, especially including biodiversity and wildlife, and enhancing the ability of countries to accelerate climate action and more effectively fulfill their commitments under their NDCs and NAPs.

Emphasizing the essential functional role of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, including wild animals, in underpinning the integrity of ecosystems and ecosystem services and that protecting and restoring the ecological integrity of all ecosystems and degraded lands are critical mitigation and adaptation actions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular when the worldviews, knowledge, governance and stewardship practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are integrated.

Noting that recent submissions highlight promising areas for enhanced collaboration with United Nations entities and other international organizations that contribute to the work under the Convention, such as food systems transformation and the protection and restoration of wildlife and ecosystems.

Acknowledging that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity

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 - a. Strengthening the role and function of the Joint Liaison Group, including increasing engagement, transparency and reporting from the Joint Liaison Group to Parties;
 - b. The organization of technical information exchanges to further discuss options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence and synergies across the Rio conventions, and subsequently support the development of a multilevel road map with short, medium and long-term actions for enhancing policy coherence, and to report its finding to Parties at the thirty-first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - c. Identify, utilising input from NGOs and academia, synergistic work areas for delivery under the Joint Liaison Group including areas such as food systems transformation and the protection and restoration of wildlife and ecosystems;
3. Decides to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) under the SBSTA, with a mandate until the 32nd Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, to develop recommendations for consideration by SBSTA 64 and SBI 64 and other relevant UNFCCC bodies, with a view to:
 - a. Reviewing existing cooperation agreements and UNFCCC processes related to collaboration with the other Rio Conventions;
 - b. Identifying barriers and capacity gaps to effective coordination among the Rio Conventions at multilateral and national levels;
 - c. Identifying further opportunities to enhance policy coherence and address the barriers identified, both within existing structures and through potential new mechanisms or institutional arrangements, as appropriate, based on consultations and technical meetings with Parties and observers, including through submissions;
 - d. Facilitating regular exchange and collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG), and ensuring that the AHTEG’s recommendations and findings are aligned with and support the work of the Joint Liaison Group.
4. Invites the UNFCCC Secretariat to engage with the efforts initiated by CBD COP16 and UNCCD COP16 decisions on synergies among the Rio Conventions, with a view to strengthening policy coherence across the three Conventions.
5. Invites Parties to consider opportunities for furthering international cooperation opportunities for policy coherence under the Rio Conventions, including a potential joint work programme.

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