



BRS COPs 2025 – Agenda Item on International Cooperation and Coordination

IUCN Statement Plenary BRS COPs 2025: Supporting the BRS International Cooperation model for the future Plastics Treaty, with a focus on biodiversity and OneHealth

30 April 2025

Madame President, Excellencies, on behalf of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its World Commission on Environmental Law, thank you for this opportunity to make this intervention.

As the international voice for nature and conservation - with members across States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and stakeholders - IUCN emphasizes the need to address the fundamental connections between pollution, biodiversity loss and human health as intertwined issues. In this context, international cooperation that is rooted in the foundational texts of the BRS Conventions has served as a fundamental element for the development of cooperation and coherence with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Organizations that sets a global standard for emulation.

Perhaps there is no better example of this than the discussions we are having today regarding the intersections between the terms and work of the BRS Conventions and the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted by the State Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As the Report contained in INF Document 59 has stressed, “pollution, especially from chemicals and wastes, has been identified as a main driver of biodiversity loss,” and the accomplishment of the goals and targets in the GBF “requires integrated efforts across all environmental agreements and frameworks, notably those under the chemicals and waste agenda.”

In this sense, the recognition of these interactions and the need for cooperation between agreements which follows from them, also furthers the idea of making visible the invisible regarding the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

Indeed, the report in INF Document 59 advances the connections between Targets 7 and 18 of the GBF, which directly relate to pollution reduction, and the need for action by the BRS Conventions and their State Parties.

IUCN and its WCEL highlight that these intersections could benefit through additional international cooperation on achieving the GBF with other MEAs and organizations, such as the Minamata Convention, the Ramsar Convention, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization to bridge pollution, OneHealth, and trade components necessary to prevent additional biodiversity loss. This also would promote ecosystem approaches and ultimately assure indigenous peoples' rights and local communities involvement. These

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connections were also emphasized by the CBD during its COP16 meeting in 2024.

Madame President, recognizing of the critical role for a mandated method of international cooperation between the MEAs as illustrated through the BRS Conventions, it is vital that this precedent be carried into the future Global Plastics Treaty. Certainly, there will be areas of shared interest between this treaty and other existing treaties, especially the Basel Convention, however this is an opportunity for collaboration and growth rather than a bar to the application of the Global Plastics Treaty.

In closing, Madame President, we hope that State Parties use the international cooperation system available under the BRS Conventions to advance collaborative work for the implementation of the GBF and the One Health approach as well as for circular economy solutions and chemical regulation that are nature-based and nature positive. We also hope that this model can guide the negotiations for the Global Plastics Treaty that includes a dedicated article on International Cooperation when INC 5.2 convenes in this special city of Geneva in August.

As ever, IUCN and its World Commission for Environmental Law stand ready to support the BRS Conventions and State Parties with further legal and scientific expertise – to make visible the invisible, the contributions of nature, healthy ecosystems and people depending on for a sound management of chemicals and wastes.

Thank you.