

INC 5.2. - IUCN and IUCN WCEL proposal on “International Cooperation and Coordination”, Art. 12 Chair’s Text and on “Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Human Health”, Art. 19 Chair’s Text

International Cooperation model for the future Plastics Treaty, with a focus on biodiversity and OneHealth

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As the international voice for nature and conservation - with members across States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders - IUCN emphasizes the need to address the fundamental connections between plastic pollution, biodiversity loss and human health as intertwined issues. Aligned with the outcomes of the [Biodiversity COP 16 Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD COP 16) decisions, Global Biodiversity Framework Targets (GBF), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, High Seas Treaty (BBNJ), SDGs, the latest Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions decisions and IUCN’s policy and project experience, IUCN calls for a future Plastics Treaty that is science-based and includes:

- References to all phases of the plastics lifecycle - from extraction, production, reuse, recycle to waste management and end of life based on [UNEA Resolution 5/14](#) and as set out in Article 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 of the [Chair’s Text](#).
- Specific textual language relating to international cooperation and coordination between the treaty’s governance body and the governance mechanisms for other multilateral environmental agreements such as the BRS Conventions and the GBF, and other relevant international and regional law instruments and organizations as well as scientific institutions, *in a revised iteration of Article 12 Chair’s Text on “Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Technology Transfer, including on “International Cooperation”*.
- A reference on protection of biodiversity and ecosystems from legacy and future plastic pollution, as a standalone article, or *specific language in a revised iteration of Article 19 Chair’s Text on “Health”*, following a biodiversity and health linked approach.

Addressing the full lifecycle of plastic pollution, as set out in [UNEA Resolution 5/14](#) is a multilayered and cross-cutting challenge for the negotiation and future implementation of a Plastics Treaty. With this understanding, it is essential that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Treaty ensure that the textual proposals advanced during INC-5.2 enshrine the growing trend of cooperation and coordination between different Multilateral Environmental

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Agreements (MEAs) and other international treaty regimes, including those on Biodiversity and Ecosystems. This would also ensure that the governance bodies of the Plastics Treaty would be empowered to engage with other secretariats and MEA governance bodies in a way that has become commonplace between existing MEAs.

A provision on international cooperation and coordination, which provides potential legal authority for the Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties (COP) to work with other relevant treaty regimes, international agreements, international and regional organizations, and stakeholders, as well as biodiversity specific language addressing a OneHealth approach have been omitted in the proposed Article 12 and Art. 19 of the [Chair's Text](#).

Thus, IUCN and its World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) urge State Parties to use the international cooperation system available under the BRS Conventions and others treaty systems to be reflected in Article 12 [Chair's Text](#) on "Capacity building, Technical assistance and Technology transfer, including International Cooperation" as well as to include some specific language on biodiversity and ecosystems considerations in Article 19 [Chair's Text](#) on "Health" to advance collaborative work for the implementation of the future Treaty that is coherent with international treaties and obligations such as the BRS Conventions and the Global Chemicals Framework, and aligned with the CBD COP16 decisions and with the Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular its Target 7.

Following the content and wording of the [UNEA Resolution 5/14](#), the latest COP BRS 2025 decisions and considering the outcomes of the [CBD COP 16](#) (e.g. on "Biodiversity and Health" or on "Strengthening the role of indigenous peoples and local communities"), IUCN and IUCN WCEL would **suggest the following treaty language**, highlighted in **YELLOW**, based on the Chair's Text:

*Wording in **Title** and in **Paragraph 4** to be included within the Treaty Text, if **Article 12** would be followed:*

ARTICLE 12 – Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Technology Transfer, including International Cooperation and Coordination

1. ...
2. ...
3. ...

4. Parties shall cooperate with each other and, as appropriate, on a regional basis and promote cooperation and coordination with relevant intergovernmental organizations and other entities, including relevant scientific organisations and governing bodies for other international instruments, and private sector entities, as appropriate, to support the effective implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its objective, while avoiding any duplication of efforts. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, strengthening

and enhancing coordination with relevant legal instruments, frameworks and bodies.

The Secretariat, with guidance from the Conference of the Parties, shall cooperate and collaborate with relevant international instruments, intergovernmental organizations and entities, including the secretariats of relevant international instruments and organizations, to ensure consistency among relevant international organizations.

[5. ...

6. ...

7. ...

*Wording in **Title and Paragraph** to be included within the Treaty Text, if a **standalone Article 19** would be followed:*

ARTICLE 19 – Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Human Health

Recognising that the health of natural systems directly influences human health, Parties shall develop and implement integrated strategies, policies and legal measures that address the impacts of plastic pollution on ecosystems and biodiversity, such that the well-being of associated human populations also benefits;

....

International cooperation and coordination that is rooted in some of the foundational texts of the BRS Conventions has served as a fundamental element for the development of cooperation and coherence with other MEAs and Organizations such as the Minamata Convention, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to bridge pollution, OneHealth, Biodiversity and trade components, and sets a global standard for emulation. Such cooperation and collaboration may lead also to the establishment of formal and informal bodies and associated work products.

In other circumstances, MEA COPs have specifically authorized the use of international cooperation to advance coherence on areas of shared interest and jurisdiction. However, COP decisions can be time consuming, especially when there will likely be many fundamental issues before the initial Plastic Treaty COPs, and specific treaty language that allows for international cooperation could ensure that these measures are taken from the beginning of the Treaty's life.

While not of the status of MEAs, the recently established Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (SPP) and the GFC also highlight the importance of establishing means of international cooperation in the pollution regulation sectors to avoid legal, scientific, and regulatory overlaps and, potentially, inconsistencies. Given the likely role of the Plastics Treaty in the sphere of pollution and chemicals management law, policy, and implementation, it will be essential that its governing

bodies have the ability to engage with the governing bodies of other MEAs and related international entities from the outset.

The **suggested treaty language is in keeping with previous proposals made by Members of the INC process and with elements of existing MEAs**, their subsequently adopted Conference of the Parties decisions and implementing frameworks. The overarching concern is to ensure that the future Plastics Treaty be a legally significant treaty that

- addresses all phases of plastic pollution and the plastics lifecycle,
- builds on existing models, advances cooperation and coordination amongst different treaty governance systems and organizations,
- encourages convergence and coherence with existing international treaty law,
- gives flexibility to regional/national implementation through existing regional conventions and national laws, considering the relevant conditions a country occurs.
- recognizes the core connections between biodiversity protection and plastic pollution,
- and ensures that all States, stakeholders and civil society members will be represented in its terms.

Such language would further allow for the effective and holistic mainstreaming of related practices between treaties and organizations, assisting States in fulfilling their multiple obligations under international law and ensuring mechanisms for responsive coordination of responses to future issues. This language would ensure that State efforts to address the ecosystem and biodiversity-related aspects of health issues relating to plastic pollution could fall within the scope of financing options made available the Plastics Treaty, as currently provided for under Article 11 of the Chair's Text. It also would promote ecosystem approaches, helping National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD and future National Plastic Action Plans under the Plastics Treaty to be implemented in an effective manner. This would also ensure that circular economy solutions and chemical regulations that are nature-based and nature positive and ultimately assure indigenous peoples' rights and local communities' involvement, which are necessary for a circular economy in harmony with nature.

IUCN and IUCN WCEL stand ready to support negotiators in getting ambitious outcomes at INC 5.2. that are coherent with international treaties and obligations such as the BRS Conventions and the Global Chemicals Framework but are also aligned with the CBD COP16 decisions and with the GBF Target 7.