



Submission by Denmark and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Copenhagen, 29/09/2025

Subject: Cooperation with other international organisations

Summary/Key messages:

- The EU seeks to elevate the SBSTA item 'Cooperation with other International Organisations' (IGOs) from a procedural item into a more substantive item. This is needed in the context of the transition of the UNFCCC process from a focus on negotiating new rules, processes and institutional arrangements towards enhancing implementation and strengthening ambition. In the near term, our priorities should be guided by the outcome of the first Global Stocktake.
- From the EU perspective there are two dimensions to this: i) a comprehensive consideration of opportunities to cooperate with relevant IGOs with a view to implementing agreed decisions and pursuing the goals of the Paris Agreement and ii) enhanced policy coherence and synergies between the UNFCCC regime, the other Rio Conventions and other relevant treaty bodies to achieve their objectives.
- Climate change, biodiversity loss and land, pollution and ocean degradation are interdependent emergencies that must be addressed in an effective, integrated and coherent way that comprises mutually beneficial strategies, with strong social and environmental safeguards including through nature-based solutions, biodiversity conservation and ecosystems restoration.
- The SBSTA item at SBSTA 63 should be organised as an information session, involving the secretariats of the relevant organisations and be followed by a discussion with the purpose of exchanging information, sharing best practices and exploring how to strengthen cooperation.



1. Introduction

The European Union welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on cooperation with other international organisations to inform the deliberations on this matter at the sixty-third session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA63).

This invitation to share perspectives aligns well with the EU's previously expressed position in favour of elevating the SBSTA agenda item 'Cooperation with other International Organisations' (IGOs) from a procedural to a substantive item. The EU has argued multiple times¹ that the UNFCCC process needs to increase cooperation with IGOs and different stakeholders², to be fit for purpose in this era of strengthening implementation and increasing ambition. In that regard, the SBSTA agenda item on cooperation with IGOs can play an important role and provide a forum to take stock and to guide cooperative efforts further.

Furthermore, the implementation of the outcome of the First Global Stocktake as agreed in 1/CMA.5 requires strengthened international cooperation. This is acknowledged in sections II (International cooperation) and III (Guidance and way forward). We see strengthening of international cooperation as an overarching issue whereby the UNFCCC process should enhance its catalytical role in improving coordination and interaction with and among those international organisations with key sectoral mandates, for example, on energy and transport, and those with cross-cutting responsibilities, for example, for finance, where the mobilisation of climate finance by MDBs will be a key contribution, and trade. Also support in the design and implementation of NDC's with a multitude of institutions and the NDC Partnership and UNDP Climate Promise as a platform will remain crucial in delivering on the outcome of the Global Stocktake.

In this submission, the EU presents their views on the suggested objectives, scope, format, and outcomes of the discussion at SBSTA63 following up on the initial discussions held at SBSTA62, where several parties including the EU expressed their support for enhanced policy coherence and synergies between the UNFCCC regime, the other Rio Conventions and other relevant treaty bodies to be discussed under this agenda item, and the Technical Information Exchange between Rio Secretariats, parties and observers to further explore options to

¹ Particularly in the context of the SBI item on Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings and its deliberations on enhancing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process.

² 202503271548---PL-2025-03-27 EU submission on AIM.pdf



enhance cooperation and policy coherence, building on CBD COP Decision 16/22 and CBD Notification 2025-005³.

2. Suggested objectives and scope of the discussion

As argued above, the EU considers cooperation with IGOs as indispensable for achieving, inter alia, the objectives and targets of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the CBD and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as UNCCD and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and for pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals. Implementing the outcome of the First Global Stocktake should guide these efforts.

For the EU, there are two dimensions that need to be covered within the SBSTA item on cooperation with IGOs.

Firstly, the item should provide space to present and discuss in a comprehensive manner the cooperative activities that are relevant for implementing the agreed decisions and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, particularly guided by the outcome of the first Global Stocktake. The report of the UNFCCC Secretariat on this item (FCCC/SBSTA/2025/INF.1) provides a good starting point for this as it presents ongoing cooperative efforts in areas as climate finance, technology, adaptation and loss and damage, mitigation, transparency, climate science, research and systematic observations. Also, it addresses regular coordination within the UN system. The discussion under this item provides an opportunity to mainstream climate action across the UN system.

Secondly, the item should be used as the space to discuss enhanced policy coherence and synergies between the UNFCCC regime, the other Rio Conventions and other relevant treaty bodies, in line with the interventions made during SBSTA62. A key objective of the discussion should be to explore ways to strengthen cooperation with and among international organisations in order to promote integrated, cross-sectoral approaches that address climate change, biodiversity loss, and land and ocean degradation in a coherent and mutually reinforcing manner. The EU recognises the interdependence between climate change, biodiversity loss and land and ocean degradation and underlines the necessity of ensuring policy coherence across the UN system, the Rio Conventions and the Paris Agreement to maximise synergies and minimise potential trade-offs between climate, biodiversity, and land and ocean degradation objectives. Enhanced coordination among these frameworks can foster more integrated and

³ [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202205031018---FR-2022-05-03 EU submission on future of UNFCCC.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202205031018---FR-2022-05-03%20EU%20submission%20on%20future%20of%20UNFCCC.pdf); <https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2025-005>



mutually reinforcing approaches, thereby improving the efficiency and effectiveness of global environmental governance.

In its submission to CBD (notification 2025-005) regarding views and information on biodiversity and climate change, the EU identifies key building blocks for policy coherence⁴. These include:

- Leveraging the supportive and facilitative role of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG);
- Enhancing the cooperation between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the UNCCD Science Policy Interface (SPI) as science-policy interfaces.
- Better integrating approaches at national and subnational levels, e.g. NDCs and NAPs under the Paris Agreement, NBSAPs under the CBD and NAPs under the UNCCD;
- Where possible, using and harmonising existing monitoring and reporting frameworks and indicators;
- Boosting cooperation and strengthening synergising approaches to mobilising finance for the implementation of the Rio Conventions and the Paris Agreement;
- Advancing and mainstreaming gender equality, women and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, empowerment of all women and girls, as well as including voices, knowledge and leadership of Indigenous Peoples, and of local communities.

As EU, and in order to keep focus, we propose that the discussion during SBSTA63 should focus on how effective collaboration with international organisations can successfully deliver on the outcomes of the Global Stocktake, focusing particularly on paras 28, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 55, 90, 91, 95, 96 of decision 1/CMA.5.

The discussion at SBSTA63 should focus on identifying practical and strategic opportunities for both dimensions (cooperative activities relevant for implementing the agreed decisions of the Paris Agreement guided by the Global Stocktake outcome and enhanced policy coherence and synergies between the UNFCCC regime, the other Rio Conventions and other relevant treaty bodies).

The discussion should particularly have the purpose of:

- Exchanging information on initiatives;

⁴ <https://s3.amazonaws.com/km.documents.attachments/e036/eaab/c1b6b30b43a1303d591f8fa2>



- Sharing good practices and lessons learned (e.g. planning, implementation, MRV, finance, national focal points, managing of trade-offs); and
- Exploring further collaboration between the UNFCCC process and other international organisations, the Rio convention secretariats including their scientific and financing bodies, the Joint Liaison Group and relevant voluntary political initiatives.

3. Proposed format of the discussion

The proposed format for the discussion should include a dedicated information session featuring the secretariats of the UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD, as well as key organisations, including for instance, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS – UN Ocean), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the secretariats of regional conventions and arrangements on air pollution (e.g. UNECE LRTAP Convention) and representatives of IPCC, IPBES and SPI. We should also use this item to grasp opportunities to strengthen cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), recognising these organisations' contributions towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The report of the UNFCCC Secretariat for the item on Cooperation with other International Organisations (FCCC/SBSTA/2025/INF.1) should serve as the starting point for this information session. This report should present a comprehensive overview of cooperative activities between UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and the IGOs as well as include a state of play of the cooperation with the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF). The report should highlight good practices such as UNFCCC and UNDP hosting the NDC partnership and advancements of IGOs in the different sectoral and thematic areas contributing to the implementing the outcome of the first Global Stocktake. It should also include activities of different IGOs within the Global Climate Action Agenda.

This session should also build on the Technical Information Exchange held on 15 June 2025, organised in the context of CBD decision 16/22 ahead of SBSTA62, and should also reflect the outcomes of CBD SBSTTA 27 item 5 Biodiversity and climate change and item 6 (b) Strategic review.

This session would serve as a platform for these bodies to share updates on their work. Following the presentations, a Q&A segment would allow Parties and Observers to engage directly with the organisations, fostering dialogue and



clarifying areas of potential collaboration. Additionally, space should be provided for Parties to showcase their domestic efforts aimed at promoting the coordinated implementation at national and subnational levels to highlight both synergies and challenges faced, and to present concrete proposals for how to ensure and improve cooperation and synergies among international organisations, including to support national initiatives.

4. Expected output

As suggested in the note from the UNFCCC Secretariat (FCCC/SBSTA/2025/INF.1), the EU would expect that SBSTA for this item would:

- Take note of the presentations on cooperative activities;
- Provide guidance on the scope and direction of cooperative actions;
- Provide guidance on the scope and activities of further work under this agenda item;
- Make recommendations on key priority areas in which the cooperative efforts need to be strengthened.

This could be captured in SBSTA conclusions possibly to be complemented with a SBSTA Chair Summary. A draft decision text could also be considered.

5. Conclusion

The European Union looks forward to hearing the views of other Parties and observers on this important matter. The EU remains committed to constructive engagement and to working collaboratively to enhance cooperation with international organisations as well as enhancing policy coherence and fostering synergies between the UNFCCC regime, the other Rio Conventions and other relevant treaty bodies to achieve climate, biodiversity, ocean and land-related goals.