

**Statement from the Cohab Initiative Secretariat (Co-operation on Health and Biodiversity) on Item 7 of the provisional agenda:
Cooperation with other conventions and international organisations**

In the few short years since the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was agreed at CBD COP15, it has become clear the multiple intersecting global crises which threaten the health of the planet and the populations it sustains, are rapidly becoming more complex and more interconnected, with our societies becoming ever more interdependent. Yet we find ourselves in an era where, despite the need for greater understanding and collaboration, the ability of multilateral agreements on urgent global challenges to achieve their aims - whether these are environmental, social, or political in nature – is less certain. We point to the outputs of the IPBES Nexus Assessment from 2025, which determined that continuing with isolated, siloed approaches to individual crises comes with unintended consequences and risks exacerbating the problems which such approaches seek to address.

The Note by the Secretariat for this agenda item provides welcome details of numerous activities undertaken by other conventions to address the biodiversity crisis, and actions taken by the Secretariat to enhance cooperation and synergies between UN agencies, other intergovernmental organisations and conventions, and others.

However, many challenges and barriers remain to achieving the transformative change required by the KMGBF, including establishing a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach where the dependencies of each sector on biodiversity are recognised and accounted for in their respective decision making and response plans. This is not just a problem of outreach and mainstreaming, but a fundamental challenge of the mandates of the institutions and systems established to address these urgent global crises. The global health system is an important case in point; although the health sector is a major driver of national economies, strategic planning and trade cooperation, and although the health of all humans depends utterly upon biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is not an issue identified for significant action or concern under any global health agreements. This is despite the evidence presented by decades of scientific research as collated under the joint publication in 2016 by the World Health Organisation and the CBD Secretariat of the State of Knowledge Review on the linkages between health and biodiversity, and the WHO's work on health and the Rio Conventions ahead of the Rio+20 summit in 2012.

We recommend that the CBD Secretariat should continue to champion efforts to identify and embrace synergies and opportunities for coherence between the Convention and other multilateral agreements, and between the Secretariat and other global institutions.

In that context, we wish to propose an additional paragraph in the current recommendation adding a new paragraph under paragraph 8, as follows:

(8 bis)

“Invites Parties to consider opportunities to promote and enhance synergies between the Convention and multilateral agreements in other sectors outside the environment sector, including *inter alia* in health, humanitarian assistance, trade, science and technology, and human rights, where the importance of biodiversity to their respective goals and agendas present opportunities for enhanced mainstreaming and uptake of biodiversity in decision making.”

[Cohab Initiative Secretariat](#), 15th February 2026