

JOINT LIAISON GROUP – RIO CONVENTIONS

MINUTES OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP PRINCIPALS MEETING

29 May 2025 – 15:00-16:30 CEST

Participants

Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD (Chair)

Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary, CBD

Xenya Scanlon, Chief, Communications, External Relations and Partnerships, UNCCD (sherpa)

Daniele Violetti, Senior Director of Programmes Coordination, UNFCCC (sherpa)

Tristan Tyrrell, Programme Management Officer for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Dry & Subhumid Lands, CBD

Welcome and updates from JLG Principals

UNCCD ES opened the meeting in his capacity as chair of Rio Conventions JLG in 2025, noting this was the first meeting of JLG principals since their in-person meeting in August 2024 in Bonn, shortly after CBD ES assumed her responsibilities. He announced the appointment of Yasmine Fouad of Egypt as next UNCCD ES, who will start her mandate in August 2025. UNFCCC and CBD ES expressed their appreciation to UNCCD ES as he completes his mandate. The Principals also thanked the JLG sherpas for their ongoing work.

Synergies in the context of UN80

The Principals noted that the issue of synergies has never been timelier in the light of UN80 and that the work of JLG has been reinforced by Parties' mandates at recent COPs and Presidencies-led initiatives, including Rio Trio.

They underscored UN80 as an opportunity to elevate political awareness of synergies and provide proactive guidance to Parties on these issues, including through a joint non-paper outlining suggestions for greater institutional cooperation and efficiencies to be developed ahead of UNGA.

Principals also stressed the need to raise the visibility and transparency of the JLG, including revamping its website presence and sharing minutes of JLG Principals' meetings.

Consideration of the proposed Rio Conventions JLG areas of cooperation 2025-2026

The Principals endorsed the proposed document outlining areas of cooperation with some suggestions regarding thematic priorities in light of current resource constraints. They also agreed to make the document publicly available.

Upcoming meetings

The CBD secretariat briefed the Principals on the upcoming technical exchange on enhanced cooperation and policy coherence to support the implementation of the Rio conventions, to be held on 15 June 2025 in Bonn.

The UNFCCC secretariat briefed on the revised format of climate weeks, and ongoing discussions on synergies spearheaded by the Brazilian COP30 Presidency.

The Principals discussed possible joint activities at the upcoming meetings of AMCEN, UNGA, COP30 and UNEA7. They agreed to hold a Rio synergies event at the AMCEN conference in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14-18 July 2025.

The Principals agreed to revisit the date for the next JLG meeting once the incoming UNCCD ES is on board, with possible options in Bonn or New York in September 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:15 CEST.

Action points

- The Principals requested the sherpas to develop a non-paper on Rio Conventions synergies as a contribution to the UN80 process.
- The Principals requested the sherpas to finalize the JLG areas of cooperation 2025-2026 document and make it available on the revamped Rio Conventions website.
- The Principals requested the CBD secretariat to explore options for a synergies event at AMCEN and take the lead on organizational aspects.
- The Principals requested the UNCCD secretariat to coordinate dates for the next Principals meeting in September-October 2025.