**Statement**

Agenda Item 3f, OEWG 1 GFC Plenary, 25 June 2025
**International Cooperation and Coordination**
UNEP/GFC/OEWG.1/6 International cooperation and coordination: interlinkages and activities to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals

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Thank you Co-Chair

IUCN fully supports a strong cooperation and synergies agenda and is honoured to participate in these meetings.

Pollution is indeed one of the five major drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, on land, in water and in the marine environment. Because of it, species already at risk are under increased threat. Pollution from the unsafe use of materials, chemicals, pesticides and waste causes damage to health and social systems. At the same time, functioning ecosystems with healthy biodiversity can help detoxify the environment.

These issues are all interconnected and so must be the solutions to address them. IUCN Members at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille in 2021 strongly endorsed IUCN's solid engagement and action regarding *plastic* pollution but also other types of pollution - noise, light, ship wastewater discharge, Deep Sea mining, sunken vessels, and nutrient coastal pollution.

Achieving biodiversity sustainable consumption and production, a toxic free and healthy environment and zero waste will therefore require strong, science-based engagement from stakeholders positioned across the value chain, at all levels, and could benefit from a circular economy approach.

IUCN welcomes the continuation of the work on cooperation and synergies given its fundamental role for the implementation of international biodiversity goals and targets, in particular, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its Target 7 alongside other Targets, the SDGs and the agreed High Seas Treaty, but also in helping National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to be implemented in an effective manner.

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

With the Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (SPP) established and as negotiations towards an international, legally binding instrument on plastic pollution advance, it is essential to ensure consistency across commitments made at various international fora and coherence across all these processes. Recognizing of the critical role for a mandated method of international cooperation between the MEAs as illustrated through the BRS Conventions and the GFC, it is vital that this precedent be carried into the future Global Plastics Treaty as an opportunity for collaboration and growth rather than a bar to the application of the Global Plastics Treaty. IUCN supports these efforts with its legal and economic expertise and global projects.

This said, we would like to particularly applaud the report in Inf doc 9 (UNEP_GFC_OEWG.1_INF_9_Contributions_of_the_chemicals_and_waste_international_agreements_and_frameworks_to_the_Kunming-Montreal_Global_Biodiversity_Framework.pdf) on the interlinkages between the Chemicals and Waste MEAs, the GFC and Biodiversity. We would emphasize to integrate these findings in the current discussion at OEWG 1 on Highly hazardous pesticides, on measurability, indicators, criteria etc.

Finally, IUCN tools and knowledge products including the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™*, *the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, Panorama Solutions*, and the *UNEP/IUCN National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action*, alongside emerging work on a living nature positive approach and our well-advanced work on gender mainstreaming across MEAs, could support the operationalization of the synergies agenda in concrete ways.

Thank you Co-Chair