Belgium and the Antarctic Treaty System

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The Antarctic Treaty System

- Antarctic Treaty
- Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
- Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals
Antarctic Treaty

- Signed in Washington in 1959
- Entry into force 1961
- Belgium 1 of 12 original signatories
- Exclusively for peaceful purposes
- Military activities are prohibited
- Freedom to conduct scientific research
- Promotes international scientific cooperation
- Results of research be made freely available
- Sets aside the potential for sovereignty disputes
- Prohibits nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear waste
Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

- 55 Parties
- 29 with consultative rights
- Madrid Protocol
- Committee on Environmental Protection
- SCAR
- COMNAP

- Four pillars: peace, science, putting aside the discussions on sovereignty and environmental protection
- Different measures, recommendations, decisions and resolutions
- ASPA, ASMA, ASPS
Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

- Signed in Canberra in 1980
- Entry into Force 1982
- Belgium original co-signatory

- Objective: conservation of Antarctic marine living resources
- Term ‘conservation’ includes rational use

- Response to concerns on increasing krill catches in the Southern Ocean
- All Antarctic populations of finfish, molluscs, crustacean and sea birds found south of the Antarctic Convergence
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

- 26 Members
- 10 Acceding states
- Scientific Committee
- Eco-system based
- Conservation Measures
- Ross Sea MPA 1,57 mio km²
- IUU
Current challenges

- Increasing geo-political tension
- Undermining of scientific research
- Climate change impacts
- Impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity
- Tourism
- Bioprospecting
Role Belgium

In General

- Integrity of the Treaty and Conventions
- Cooperation
- Precautionary Principle
- Science-based policy/decision making
- Building bridges
Belgium in the ATCM

- Education and outreach
- ASPA Western Sor Rondane Mountains
- Conservation and protection
- Climate Change Response WG
- Intersessional work on tourism
Belgium in CCAMLR

- Co-sponsor East Antarctic and Weddell Sea MPAs
- Lead climate change resolution
- Conservation of biodiversity and marine ecosystems
- Southern Ocean Decade Action Plan
Any Questions?