

Summary of Africa regional consultations, 9-10th October 2023

This summary is not negotiated nor developed with full consensus and thus does not necessarily represent the views of individual Member States.

Co-facilitators:

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The participants came back to the definition of NBS under UNEA resolution 5/5 with the following perspectives:

- Some participants lack clarity on the NBS definition they find it complex and broad and some elements can be brought through setting the criteria, while others believe that UNEA resolution brings elements of definition that requires to be deepened to have a common understanding of the concept of NBS, therefore the African region believes that the identification of criteria and standards is a matter of high importance in order to move forward together.
- Some delegates expressed the need to have a follow up process to expand the elements contained in the resolution.
- The African group requested to understand the role that science can play while implementing NBS.
- With regard to the six issues of the discussion:

| Issues | Summary of discussions |
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| 1) Best practices | <p>The best practices should contribute to the achievement of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely social, economic and environmental. The group highlights the importance of respecting ecosystem approach while identifying best practices, taking into consideration the role of local communities and indigenous people and their traditional knowledge.</p> <p>-Several countries presented some of their best practices with regard to their application to the NBS for example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The green dam to combat desertification- “Green Sahel” process ,- Organo mineral fertilizer production in;- dune restoration: installation of ganivelles, typhavelles; <p>Other countries showcased some of their best practices in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- establishment of small farms using green technologies;- reforestation, forestation, ecosystem restoration, either through national policies or under MEAs;- agroforestry;- smart livestock management;- mangrove restoration programs and |

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| | <p>- protection of coral reefs -Adaptation and resilience in public health sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some delegation raised concerns on examples of NBS that have been presented that may have negative impacts on other sectors. |
| <p>2) <i>Standards and Criteria for Nbs</i></p> | <p>The group called for the designation of standards and criteria that also meet the African needs and priorities; mainly poverty eradication, food security, job creation.</p> <p>Setting and designing of standards and criteria requires further negotiations under UNEA. These negotiations should be country-driven, taking into consideration the work that is done under UNCBD, IUCN and other relevant fora and entities.</p> <p>Identification of standards and criteria should take into consideration the national context needs and priorities, bearing in mind the ecosystem based approaches.</p> <p>The standards and criteria that will be adopted need to be in line with the principles of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> <p>The standards and criteria should consider the Rio principles and the decisions adopted under the three Rio conventions as well as other relevant MEAs. Standards and Criteria should not only consider climate change mitigation but also adaptation, land degradation and desertification.</p> <p>There is a need for considering the comprehensive nature of the resolution, while identifying the standards and criteria.</p> <p>Standards and Criteria must be scientific based and knowledge-evidenced;</p> <p>The group stressed on the importance of the engagement of all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Simplification of standards and criteria is required in order to facilitate the adoption of NBS by all relevant actors including local communities.</p> <p>The group highlighted the importance of having compilation of NBS to inspire its application in the national contexts.</p> |
| <p>3) <i>Measuring benefits and costs of NBS</i></p> | <p>African countries recognize the need to measure the costs and benefits of NBS.</p> |

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| | <p>The evaluation should be multidisciplinary science-based and cost effective in order to better guide decision makers. The evaluation should be carried out in several stages of the implementation of NBS. The evaluation grid and scales are important to identify activities that can be part of NBS.</p> |
| <p>4) Finance for NBS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NBS funding must be new, predictable and additional taking into consideration the diversity of sources (national, international, public, private) while ensuring that the process will not create new commitments and will not alter the obligations of parties under MEAs. -The group expressed difficulty to access financial resources under the existing financial institutions, particularly from the GEF, the GCF and the climate adaptation fund. - Other delegations expressed the idea of creating a dedicated NBS fund that is easily accessible. -While identifying financial resources, the group stressed on the need to take into consideration innovative financing mechanisms; <p>The group also stressed on the need to take into consideration all the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group stressed the necessity to consider adequate means of implementation, in particular finance, capacity building and technology development and transfer while implementing NBS in developing countries. -The process should encourage the involvement of the private sector. |
| <p>4) Opportunities and obstacles: NBS for climate mitigation</p> | <p>Opportunities :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is a recognition that the application of NBS can play an important role in climate change mitigation, improving resilience and reducing risks. <p>Obstacles :</p> <p>The group mentioned a set of obstacles that can hinder the process which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of funding. -NBS results can be achieved in the long term which can hamper its adoption. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of legal and regulatory framework, lack of integrated strategy on NBS, lack of research centers and technology and support for local researchers, societal norms may impose constraints for the adoption of NBS. -the absence of internationally agreed standards and criteria on NBS. -limited awareness and understanding of NBS -Lack of coordination among relevant stakeholders. |
| <p>5) Policy for NBS</p> | <p>The group mentioned the need to have monitoring and evaluation framework for NBS and expressed the necessity of having indicators.</p> <p>Some delegates indicated the possibility to introduce NBS in existing development strategies and policies, while others mentioned the necessity to have a dedicated NBS strategy and action plan. In this regard, the group would like to call UNEA to request the regional and sub regional organizations to facilitate the development of policies or strategies at the regional and the national levels.</p> |