

## **STATEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP on UNEA-1 RESOLUTION/DECISIONS:5 ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION**

1. We welcome and support the efforts to enable UNEP to take a global action on ecosystem-based adaptation.
2. We would like to underline that the success for the implementation of any global decision at the national level relies heavily on the effective engagement of local and subnational governments as appropriate.
3. Effective multilevel governance and full engagement of local communities in all these efforts is particularly important in the case of adaptation.
4. We also would like to encourage UNEP to ensure that policies and actions focusing on ecosystem-based adaptation is effectively linked with those around disaster risk reduction, vulnerability assessments, community-based adaptation as well as global financial architecture on loss and damage.
5. Within that scope, we believe that Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change should be considered under a community-based and territorial approach that would appropriately address ecological, social, economic and cultural specificities and disaster risk reduction efforts, in close collaboration with the respective authorities and local communities.
6. We would like to underline the importance of Hyogo Framework of Action and Making My Cities Resilient Campaign as one of the most relevant and successful practices of the global community led by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reductions to strengthen preparedness, awareness and capacity building in disasters and definitely on adaptation. We would like to invite UNEP to play a leadership role in ensuring appropriate linkage of ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the second phase of Hyogo Framework of Action which will be adopted at the Sendai Conference in March 2015.
7. We also would like to note that Durban Adaptation Charter for Local Governments, adopted in 2011 at COP17/CMP7 in Durban, S. Africa, and signed by hundreds of local government worldwide since then, as an innovative response of local governments towards adaptation that successfully incorporates both ecosystem-based and community-based adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction and vulnerability assessments. We invite UNEP to engage and support with these globally coordinated, voluntary, bottom-up and holistic approach of local and subnational governments as appropriate in the full implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation.
8. Finally, we invite UNEP to actively engage with the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility in order to ensure ecosystem-based actions at the local, subnational, national, subregional and regional levels are fully supported with global climate finance mechanisms.