

Resolution/Decision 7: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA)

The United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP,

Noting the IPCC-5 assessment report which confirms that climate systems are warming and that global temperatures will continue to rise in the coming centuries even if the green houses gases are stabilized, affecting natural systems on which humanity relies and highlighting the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change,

Noting also GA Resolution 67/210, which reaffirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time; expressed deep concern that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and; emphasized that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority,

Recalling paragraph 190 of the Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20), “The Future We Want”, which expressed concern that all countries are already experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change, which is threatening efforts to achieve sustainable development, eradicate poverty and achieve food security, and emphasised that climate change is an immediate and urgent priority,

Noting UNEP’s Africa Adaptation Gap Report, which indicates that climate change will affect among other sectors biodiversity rates, water supply, human health and food production and that it is likely to increase the number of people at risk of hunger as well as the proportion of malnourished people in a region where 22 per cent of the population already suffers from hunger,

Acknowledging the dependence of all countries particularly developing countries on ecosystems for livelihoods, food production and well-being, including adaptation to the impacts of climate change,

Noting with concern that the resilience of many ecosystems is likely to be exceeded this century by an unprecedented combination of climate change, associated disturbances, and other global change drivers,

Recognizing the importance of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation to building resilient ~~countries, cities, and territories and countries,~~ and its strong relevance to the Hyogo Framework for Action especially as a strategy for focusing on disaster risky reduction and preparedness.

Recognizing the direct link between the adverse impacts of climate change on ecosystems and ecosystem’s ability to provide for local food production and national food security,

Conscious of the heightened vulnerability of developing countries particularly LDCs and SIDS to the impacts of climate change,

Recognizing the sovereignty and stewardship of developing countries over their ecosystems and natural capital, which are threatened by climate change,

Recalling UNEP Governing Council decision 22/3 requesting UNEP to support regional and national action plans to reduce the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change,

Recognizing the ongoing work of United Nations Environment Programme's on ecosystem based adaptation activities to reduce vulnerability to climate change and subsequent vulnerabilities in areas such as food security,

Recognizing the role of civil society, scientific institutions and local and grassroots communities in providing evidence, tools, case studies, monitoring and best practices in ecosystem based adaptation,

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1. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, civil society, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders, to continue providing and to enhance support to developing countries at their request, for the development and implementation of local, subnational, national, subnational, local-subregional and regional ecosystems based adaptation programmes, and plans and activities through *inter-alia* practical tools and pilot projects to demonstrate the use of those tools and other policy making technical support,

2. *Calls upon* all countries to consider Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change 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.

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32. *Calls upon* all countries to include and improve ecosystems based adaptation in their climate change adaptation and food security policies and plans,

34. *Calls upon* countries in position to do so, to financially support the development and implementation of ecosystem based adaptation programmes, projects and policy development,

45. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP at its second session, on progress in the implementation of the present decision.