

Group D

Barriers/challenges

- Common Understanding: there needs to be a common vision/understanding
 - Within governments and between ministries
 - Between countries
- Institutional home of the blue economy at national and regional level
- Integration with existing institutional frameworks
- Competing priorities and agendas
- Political will and vision lacking

Barriers/challenges

- Weak national and regional capacity: financial, intellectual, knowledge, marine spatial planning; weak implementing framework (legal, coordination etc.)
- Lack of awareness:
 - Stakeholders engagement
 - General public
- Collaboration: dispersed efforts, need to make use of different stakeholder experiences

Barriers/challenges

- Confusing international agendas but weak implementation and review of progress
- Is the blue economy a subset of the national economy or a framework for the whole economy?

Way forward

- Overarching challenge: that the blue economy is seen as the vehicle to the overall sustainable development goals
- Suggest the blue economy be taken up at the AU level
- Nairobi Convention needs to put steps in place now