

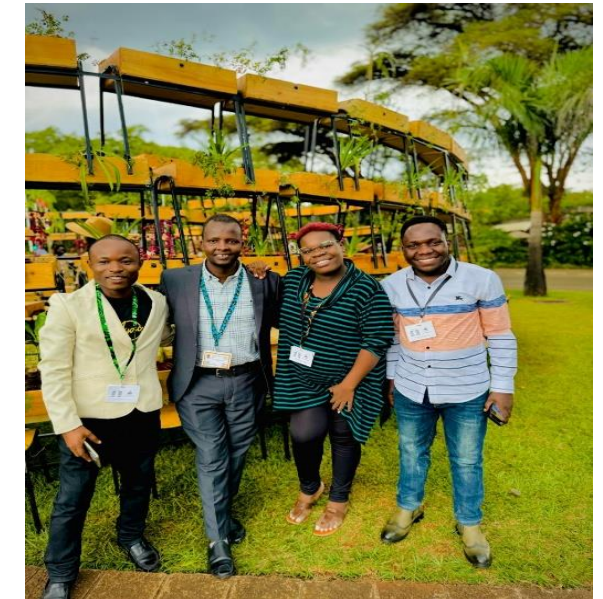


**ENVIRONMENT AND
FOOD FOUNDATION (E2F) @
UNEA 6 REPORT
NAIROBI, KENYA**



E2F Member Present

1. Achare Elvis Ayamba – Founder & Executive Director at Environment and Food Foundation (E2F)



Our key objectives

1. Influence UNEA resolutions and decisions so that proposed solutions reduce pollution, biodiversity loss, address climate change and benefit local communities
2. Explore partnerships and collaboration with like-minded Individuals, Networks and CSOs to collectively influence outcomes / comprehensive solutions that benefit African people and nature



Our Key Messages

- **Nature based solutions:** There is always a risk that projects misuse the concept of NbS leading to some projects being used for offsetting and greenwashing under the guise of NbS. There needs to be awareness that ‘good’ can turn into ‘bad’ hence we should not have blind faith in NbS. Nor should we expect good behaviour from the private sector in the absence of regulation. Agreement was reached on Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement that relates to non-market mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation actions that excludes any reference to NbS despite efforts by the EU. ACBA members should pay careful attention to the language in the draft resolution and any decisions.
- **Ecosystem restoration and sustainable use:** To address the climate and biodiversity crises and save humanity, we must enhance ecosystem functions through the sustainable management of forests, wetlands, and biodiversity. Ecosystems have intrinsic values, support local and national livelihoods and economies. Governments are urged to adopt an ambitious resolution and solutions that enhance legal and sustainable use, conservation, fair and equitable benefits sharing and accountability.
- **Research and Data:** Addressing the climate and biodiversity crises calls for transformative policies, commitment to hold each other to account and to monitor progress. This will happen once Africa has a capacity to undertake research and embraces formal science, local knowledge and citizen science. The continent requires significant investment in local, national and continental research and knowledge institutions. Currently there is no draft resolution on investment in research and knowledge development.

E2F's main focus

During the recently concluded UNEA 6, E2F member present was following different thematic areas under each clusters. See the list below;

1. Effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (4)
2. Halting land degradation and restoring degraded lands and increasing ecosystem and communities' resilience to drought (5)
3. Nature-based solutions (7): The resolution centers around binding safeguards and related criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of NBS
4. Synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development (12)
5. Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice (13)
6. Strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution (11).
7. Stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, regionally and globally (16)



Final Resolutions on different topics under each cluster

1. Effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (4)



In the draft resolution, it was evident that they recognized the importance of strengthening water policies, with a commitment to address water scarcity and stress, and to drive transformation from a global water crisis to a world where water is a sustainable resource, ensuring its availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

All Member States, specialized agencies, international organizations and stakeholders were called upon to implement integrated water resources management, including transboundary cooperation, to address water-related challenges comprehensively. They stressed on the importance of enhancing data collection and monitoring for evidence-based decision-making, integrating disaster-risk-informed water resources management for disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. The promotion of integrated water resource management in agriculture and large water-consuming industries is highlighted, alongside investment in sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and ecosystem-based approaches to address the investment gap in water and sanitation and ensure climate resilience.

2. Halting land degradation and restoring degraded lands and increasing ecosystem and communities' resilience to drought (5)

In the final resolution on this cluster, UNEA calls on Member States to intensify their efforts in combating desertification and land degradation. This includes restoring degraded land, promoting land conservation, and implementing sustainable land management practices to achieve land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience.

Member states were urged to align their actions with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 2018-2030 Strategic Framework to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to drought. Additionally, emphasis was placed on the importance of implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the COP to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

There was a call for a shift from reactive to proactive drought management strategies. This involves prioritizing the development and implementation of monitoring and early warning systems, conducting risk and impact assessments, and ensuring preparedness and response mechanisms are in place.

3. Nature-based solutions (7): The resolution centers around binding safeguards and related criteria, norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation of NBS

The discussions revolved around the modalities that would support implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS). A few parties questioned if there is even a need for such work, as they deemed UNEA resolution 5/5 on NbS suffices with specifics of implementation determined at the national level. Major Groups stressed that NbS are currently open to interpretation and are subject to misuse and called for a working group to include an expert nominated by Major Groups. The deadlock could not be resolved and the draft resolution was withdrawn during UNEA-6.

4. Synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development (12)

In the final resolution, UNEA encourages Member States to strengthen synergies, cooperation, or collaboration as appropriate, in fulfilling their respective obligations and commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other relevant environmental instruments. This should be done while respecting individual mandates, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of national environmental policies and actions, delivering global environmental benefits, and advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The resolution emphasizes the importance of considering the best available science, Indigenous knowledge, traditional knowledge, and local knowledge.

UNEA further requested the UNEP Executive Director, subject to resource availability, to:

- Assist Member States, upon request, in enhancing synergies, cooperation, or collaboration.
- Collect, synthesize, and share good practices, tools, success stories, and lessons learned among Member States, relevant partners, and stakeholders. This sharing should occur through relevant existing regional and global platforms and forums, building on existing initiatives to improve synergies, cooperation, or collaboration.
- Report to UNEA-7 on the implementation of the present resolution.

5. Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice (13)

On this topic, some developed countries raised concerns about the resolution as a whole. While expressing support for climate action, they reserved their position on the resolution, pointing that it might interfere with the work and mandate of UNFCCC and UNEA may not be the proper forum. There was also concern about the lack of clarity about the proposed forum on climate justice for vulnerable countries and finally, consensus could not be reached. The draft resolution was withdrawn before the UNEA-6.

6. Strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution (11).

In the final resolution, UNEA encourages Member States to:

- (a) Consider to sign and ratify the BBNJ Agreement at the earliest possible date;
- (b) Fully and effectively implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as appropriate, including its goals and targets relevant to the ocean, and increase efforts at all levels to achieve those goals and targets.

7. Stepping up efforts for enhancing the circular economy transition domestically, regionally and globally (16).

In the final resolution, UNEA calls on Member States to engage in the ongoing process to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition of completing that work by the end of 2024, as mandated by UNEA resolution 5/14;



Highlights of E2F's Participation

Speaking engagements & Side events hosted by members and partners

1. Ebrima Jarra from Soil Solution, a member of ACBA, led a successful side event. The event focused on 'Biodiversity Conservation in Our Neighborhoods: Human-Based Solutions to Address Nature's Crisis.' It emphasized the crucial role of community engagement as a vital solution for biodiversity conservation in our neighborhoods and addressed interconnected challenges such as climate change and pollution
2. On the 27th of February, Pauline Nantongo, the ACBA Policy working Group Chair, was invited to speak at a side event focusing on 'Developing High-Integrity Biodiversity Credits Markets.' The event, led by Co chairs provided valuable insights as they discussed collaborative efforts among stakeholders—governments, civil society, Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities, and market actors—to advance high-integrity biodiversity credit markets. The panel also highlighted recent milestones, outlined plans for 2024, and explored diverse perspectives on biodiversity credits, particularly focusing on governments' roles.



Side Event: Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature Based Solutions (NbS): Moving forward with the Recommendations.



One of our objectives going into UNEA6 was to follow discussions on NbS.

Key Highlights:

- NbS is a solution to triple planetary crisis; climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- A good example of NbS is mangroves. Mangroves absorbs 5% of CO₂ compared to rainforests, mangroves increases biodiversity, mangroves filters pollutants entering the Ocean.
- Indigenous people and knowledge systems is designed to promote NbS.
- NbS will not work without indigenous people.
- Finance for NbS; Production of a guide to source of finance for NbS solutions.
- Capacity building, awareness and information; Establishment of regional or national information hubs on NbS.



Side Event: UN Plastic Treaty; Reuse, A Climate and Plastic Solution



- **Main Highlights:**

- Plastics contributes to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- Reuse localizes supply chain and contributes to climate mitigation.
- Reuse is not recycling.
- Reuse is a climate solution.
- Reuse takes into consideration local realities and top-down approach to eradicate plastic pollution
- We need better financial mechanisms in reuse from principle to action.



Side Event: Transboundary Ecosystem Restoration: Key to Addressing the planetary crisis.

Key Highlights:

- Nature knows no boundaries.
- There is need for two or more countries to collaborate in Ecosystems restoration.
- Challenges of transboundary ecosystem restoration;
 - a) Unwillingness to share resources.
 - b) Lack of trust to collaborate.
 - c) Insufficient finances.
 - d) Long time to reach agreement.



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