PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
POSITION ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

UNEP Intergovernmental Consultation on Nature-Based Solutions

May 15, 2023

The Plurinational State of Bolivia highlights that in climate and environmental negotiations there is an important group of countries that does not support the concept of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), and rejects the imposition of this concept through the UNEA Resolution 5/5 because it does not capture the spirit of the multilateralism consensus and it only represents the view of a group of countries. In this sense, one of the objectives of the government consultations must be to genuinely understand these concerns and ensure that this concept is not imposed without consensus.

Secondly, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) has not fulfilled its mandate to strengthen all visions and approaches to achieve sustainable development, as agreed at the first meeting of the Governing Council of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and of the UNEA, in accordance with decision 27/8 of the Board of Directors of 2014 and Resolution UNEA 1/10 of 2014, to promote, among others, Living Well in harmony and balance with Mother Earth and its instruments. With this resolution on Nature-Based Solutions, UNEA only strengthened unilaterally, without the consensus of all countries, approaches oriented towards the green economy.

We believe that the concept of NSB is not correct because it encapsulates the solutions to face the climate and environmental crises only within the framework of the green economy, eurocentric and anthropocentric worldviews and within capitalism, ignoring the diversity of approaches and visions to achieve sustainable development as stipulated in the article 59 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Consequently, the Plurinational State of Bolivia considers that the purpose of the consultation on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), within the framework of UNEA Resolution 5/5, is to **review, complement and work on a new and additional Resolution that incorporates plural approaches to solve the climate and environmental crisis.**

In Bolivia we have differences and disagreements with the NBS Resolution, which is why we consider that examples of good practices cannot be identified, as NBS itself is not a good solution and practice.

The concept of Nature-Based Solutions is an eurocentric and anthropocentric concept that promotes planetary environmental neocolonialism and framed within capitalism following the rationale that more capitalism is the solution to the problems that stem from capitalism.

Bolivia states that the idea of NBS is not the adequate solution to address the problems of the environmental and climate crisis, since it will only reinforce anthropocentrism and capitalism, which in turn will deepen the climate and environmental crises, once again putting the needs of

human beings and capital as the center of solutions, exploiting Nature as a simple object and merchandise at the service of people, as well as deepening the commodification of Nature.

On the contrary, the mechanisms and instruments to solve the climate and environmental crisis must recognize the rights of Mother Earth, as a living being with a conscience, as well as the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The governmental consultation must consider new proposals aligned with The Living Well in harmony with Mother Earth:

Bolivia wants to highlight the existence of visions and alternatives to the NBS, such as the "**Mother Earth Centric Actions"**. This proposal has been accepted in the decision 19(f) of the 2022 Kunming Montreal global framework, along with non-market approaches and collective action by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

In previous document, the definition of **Mother Earth Centric Actions** is the following: "*Ecocentric approach and based on rights that allows actions aimed at harmonious and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, and that promotes the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensures the non-commodification of the environmental functions of Mother Earth"*.

We consider that in the complementation of Resolution 5/5, alternatives to the NBS (anthropocentric approach) should be worked on, such as the "Mother Earth Centric Actions" (cosmobiocentric approach) respecting and protecting of Mother Earth.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia does not accept the implementation of the NBS concept, because:

- They are an instrument oriented to the reification and commodification of Mother Earth and strengthen in their application the mechanisms and instruments based on markets or compensations.
- They do not recognize the rights of Mother Earth and affect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- They prevent and hinder the recognition of the epistemological parity between modern sciences and knowledge and the sciences and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples by trying to homogenize and simplify what is clearly part of a plurality of knowledge and values.
- They focus primarily on climate mitigation by promoting carbon markets with Nature, building a false option in relation to the real reduction of carbon emissions in developed countries that have caused the climate crisis. There is a specific forum to work on climate issues in the United Nations which is the UNFCCC, therefore UNEA must not get involved in this discussion.
- They are intended to be used as a carbon offset tool or to achieve "net zero" pledges. Nature cannot replace the action of developed countries to carry out the real reduction of their emissions.
- They are an instrument to dilute the responsibilities of developed countries and provide financing and means of implementation to developing countries, ignoring the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, in particular the art. 4.7 of the UNFCCC

on the provision of financing from developed countries to developing ones. The NBS promote private financing to solve the climate crisis, which is an absolute contradiction.
- They try to diminish or substitute the impact of the ecosystem-based solutions, a widely accepted concept in the CBD.
- They promote a double accounting in the provision of financial resources by connecting climate commitments with commitments to protect biological diversity.

Regarding the options to promote sustainable investments in NBS**, Bolivia recognizes that these investments are not sustainable because they are not fair, they are not equitable, they ignore the rights of Mother Earth, they ignore the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, they ignore the common but differentiated responsibilities in the solution to the climate and environmental crisis, and they also ignore the complexity of Nature and the plural solutions to environmental and climate problems.**

In these consultations it will be important to collect examples of experiences that will surely show that the concept of nature-based solutions has been co-opted for purposes of greenwashing, green monocultures, and enhancement of artificial life in Mother Earth, delaying urgent action for the decarbonisation of our economies, as well as examples where Indigenous Peoples and local communities or conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity have been impacted because of NBS implementation.

Likewise, the literature and local experiences show up the failure of NBS to deliver local benefits with results-based payment schemes such as REDD and REDD+, therefore other similar schemes must be carefully examined since they are nothing more than false solutions to the climate and environmental crisis in our countries.

Therefore, it is urgent that prior to the identification of options for the viability of investments aimed at nature-based solutions or identification of possible sources of financing for NBS, this consultation must first be satisfactorily concluded by integrating the views of the countries in the reformulation of the UNEA Resolution 5/5, or complement it with an additional one, in order to consider and integrate plural approaches for environmental and climate solutions such as the "Mother Earth Centric Actions".

ANNEX
Mother Earth Centric Actions

Proposal included in article 19(f) of the 2022 Kunming Montreal global framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as an ecocentric (cosmobiocentric) approach and based on rights that allows actions aimed at harmonious and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, and that promotes the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensures the non-commodification of the environmental functions of Mother Earth.

Among the **Mother Earth Centric Actions**, the following can be highlighted:

a) Recognize Mother Earth as a living being and subject of rights (Rights of Mother Earth).

b) Develop policy instruments to protect, manage and restore nature without commercializing its environmental functions.
c) Integrate the wisdom and cosmobiocentric worldviews of Indigenous Peoples of Living Well in harmony and balance with Mother Earth in policies, programs and projects of the countries.
d) Facilitate epistemological parity between modern science and ancestral science of Indigenuos Peoples world, strengthening the interscientific dialogue between them.
e) Promote economic growth along with wealth redistribution mechanisms, avoiding economic accumulation and inequities among individuals.
f) Develop pedagogical and educational processes related to the Living Well in harmony and balance with Mother Earth.
g) Promote respect for all living beings of Mother Earth, fighting for the organic and natural life and avoiding the transition to transhumanism, artificial and synthetic life.
h) Promote the consolidation of communities of life for the harmonious coexistence of all living beings in the totality of Mother Earth.
i) Implement actions to strengthen the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth in the protection of Mother Earth.
j) Implement joint mitigation and adaptation actions linked to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, contemplating equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and non-market approaches to face the climate and environmental crisis.
k) Promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production, being aware of the limits of Mother Earth.
l) Promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the management of life systems, recognizing social, economic, legal, political and cultural plurality, among other aspects.