



GYBN Intervention on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Pyeongchang, South Korea, October 07 / 2014

**Thank you Madam Chair for the opportunity to share our position.
I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network .**

We believe that EBSAs are an appropriate tool to contribute to Aichi target 10. We urge parties to adopt the EBSAs registry without delay.

We view the EBSAs as necessary but not as sufficient! We need to go further than just acknowledging that there is a large number of diverse areas. We do not only need EBSAs, we also need adequate Marine Protected Areas legislation that can be enforced and monitored.

We the Youth understand that MPAs are biologically and economically important areas. They provide a safe refuge for species to reproduce, thus avoiding overfishing in the seas.

We believe scientific and technical evaluation of information contained in the reports of the regional workshops provide a global perspective of the actual situation, but in order to undertake sufficient analysis on the status of marine and coastal biodiversity as mentioned in paragraph 10, we advocate for option 1. We believe a full scientific analysis is warranted, but we would also like to see collaboration with States and international and intergovernmental organizations added to this option.

Youth of the world are deeply concerned about the direction in which the marine ecosystems are heading. They are coming very close to the point of irreversible damage. It is in the best interest of the world that we do not cross this tipping point. Every party's action is vital to achieve this. Only an accelerated process of EBSA recognition and conversion into MPAs can ensure these areas remain intact.

Thank you Madam Chair.