

Public Participation Questionnaire on the Ratification of the BBNJ Agreement

In line with Articles 10, 118, and 201 of the Constitution of Kenya, this questionnaire is designed to facilitate public participation on the proposed ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). Your views will inform Kenya's position and readiness to ratify and implement the Agreement.

General Understanding and Awareness

1. Are you aware of the BBNJ Agreement and its objectives to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction?
2. Do you know what are the marine genetic resources?
3. Do you know the beneficial uses of the marine genetic resources and instances where they have been commercialized?
4. Do you believe Kenya should participate in international efforts to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond our national waters?

National Interests and Benefits

5. What opportunities do you see for Kenya from participating in the BBNJ Agreement (e.g., access to marine genetic resources, scientific collaboration, funding)?
6. How do you think the Agreement could affect Kenya's:
 - Marine research institutions?
 - Coastal communities and fisheries?
 - Private sector and biotech industries?
7. What indigenous rights relating to the ocean would wish to see preserved?

Institutional and Legal Preparedness

8. What should Kenya put in place to ensure it benefits from the BBNJ Agreement (e.g., laws, scientific infrastructure, training)?
9. Are there specific institutions (public, academic, civil society) you believe should be involved in implementing Kenya's obligations under the Agreement?

Equity and Capacity Building

10. Do you support Kenya advocating for access to financial and technical assistance under the BBNJ, especially for developing countries?

11. How can the government ensure inclusive participation of youth, women, and marginalized groups in activities linked to marine biodiversity conservation and use?
12. Would you support the establishment of a national multi-stakeholder committee to coordinate implementation and provide periodic updates?

Ratification Considerations

13. Do you support the ratification of the BBNJ Agreement by Kenya? Why or why not?
14. What concerns, if any, do you have about Kenya ratifying this international treaty?