

3. SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE Africa Group

Thank you Mr Chairman

Africa would like to take this opportunity to thank the secretariat for organising EBSAs workshops for the Africa region and honouring the promise they made during SBSTTA -16. Marine Scientists from South Africa were very actively involved in all the three workshops and we thank the African countries that participated and provided the required scientific information that was required for this exercise.

We also thank the Secretariat for the capacity building initiative on the development of the action plans for the implementation of the PoWPA.

Application of existing Policy support tools depend on national circumstances and therefore require to be customised to suit such circumstances. Inadequate resources and capacity constraints for certain developing countries require to be taken into consideration and strategies set in place to overcome such challenges. This can be done through bilateral collaboration with affected countries or a general programme targeting such countries.

Another area of concern within the group is limiting policy support tools to existing tools and mechanisms in which case we recommend an open process that allows for identification of gaps and further development of tools where needed and as appropriate.

Biodiversity in dry and subhumid lands is also of critical importance to the region and hence we would like to see

Thank you Mr Chair