

**Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly
"Towards a Pollution-Free Planet"**

This draft outline has been prepared by the President of the Assembly for consideration by Member States and stakeholders. It includes a structured list of initial points shared by the President with all Members of the Assembly on 8 May 2017 and Member States and stakeholders are invited to continue to share their views and contributions.

Member States, including through their respective regional Ministerial Fora and political groups, are invited to send their inputs to the Secretariat (unep.sgb@unep.org) at the latest by the 30 June 2017. In early July, the President will submit a Zero Draft Document for consideration by Member States taking into account all the feedback and positions received with a view to producing a coherent, concise, and action-oriented document.

Introduction:

- As the world's Ministers of Environment, we must be determined to take the bold and necessary steps to address pollution at every level in order to protect the health and lives of all people on this planet, the developmental aspirations of current and future generations, and the immeasurable wealth of the environment and the natural resources upon which we all depend;
- The UN Environment Programme is mandated to serve as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda. The UN Environment Assembly is the highest-level decision making body on the environment. Both are key in keeping the state of the environment under review and in addressing the vital environmental challenges of global and regional significance, which we are facing today, such as pollution;
- We recognize that both, our UN Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme cannot tackle the challenge of pollution alone and in this regard, we count on the contributions of other inter-governmental bodies, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and all other stakeholders, including business leaders, to maximize our effort;
- We invite all governments, businesses, communities and people, and all other stakeholders to work towards a pollution-free planet by determining their own contributions and commitments to achieve our vision.

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Vision:

- Our goal, collectively, must be a pollution-free planet. Urgent action is our responsibility;
- Reducing pollution means positively transforming our world. It will help ensure that we, as humanity, make a leap towards a healthier, safer, brighter, more sustainable future, with benefits for all;
- More people will be able to leave poverty behind;
- We will protect the health of this planet, and strengthen the interdependence of people and nature today and in the future;
- Safer and cleaner technologies will drive our economies;
- We will transform our societies to become sustainable, resource efficient and able to support the needs of present and future generations;
- Peace, security and stability will help us promote inclusive societies, which respect human rights and gender empowerment, as well as the environment;

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- We will increase global, regional and national knowledge, awareness and education around pollution sources, impacts, and solutions.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Pollution affects everybody and everything. It is a massive global challenge with consequences far beyond the environment;
- The increasing pollution of our air, water, land and seas is a major obstacle towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by our leaders in 2015;
- Pollution takes the form of chemical substances or energy, such as noise, heat or light;
- Pollution is destroying our ecosystems, affecting human health, hampering long-term economic growth and exacerbating social inequalities;
- Pollution is an individual and collective concern the world over, threatening the health and well-being of wildlife and of us all;
- We welcome the many pledges and voluntary commitments being made by Governments, business and civil society as actions towards the achievement of our vision in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and commit to take the following steps/actions;
- The solutions to reduce and eliminate pollution are available and moving onto a more sustainable path lies in our hands.

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Transformative Steps and Actions:

- Reduce all waste, through increased reuse and recycling of materials, innovation, and improved transfer of and access to clean technologies;
- Work with the private sector to identify and implement market based solutions and alternatives to end all forms of pollution;
- Improve the health of the environment and ecosystems, and the health of people everywhere, including through stronger, integrated, and coherent policies and laws to reduce pollution, including standards for air, land and water quality based on scientific evidence and data;
- Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies through capacity building and institutional strengthening, including monitoring systems;
- Eliminate major sources of marine litter, such as microplastics and the excessive, wasteful usage of single-use plastic by 202X;
- Significantly improve waste management both on land and on vessels and address the problem of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG);
- Reduce noise from human activities to safe levels for people and wildlife, particularly in the marine environment where the entire food web is affected;
- Safely manage unexploded ordnance, both on land and underwater, minimizing the risk of contamination to people and nature;
- Accelerate efforts to achieve the effective management of chemicals and wastes, including the removal of sources of PCB contamination and a global ban on lead in paint, hunting ammunitions and fishing weights by 202X;
- Significantly reduce the use of pesticides in crop production and promote the use of practices and substances safer for people, the environment and wildlife;

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- Follow the recommendations on pesticides of the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, written in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes;
- Phase out the veterinary use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as diclofenac that are known to be toxic to vultures and other scavenging birds, and identify and develop additional safe alternatives;
- Minimize light pollution especially in times and places characterized by animal congregation and migration;
- Strengthen procedures to avoid and detect intentional discharge of oil waste into the sea and implement state of art measures to prevent accidental oil spills as well as to respond and treat oil-affected ecosystems including wildlife; Reduce, by half, the amount of untreated wastewater entering water bodies by 202X;
- Substantially improve air quality to within healthy levels for human consumption by 202X;
- Work with the local governments worldwide towards promoting sustainable models of urban development that address, in an integrated manner, cleaner and habitable cities;
- Significantly expand the application and distribution in all countries of the best available science and technologies available towards combating the threat of pollution in all its forms;
- Expand existing and create new multi-stakeholder partnerships, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and the people of the world.

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