



Tallinn, 02 May 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I have the privilege and honor to write to you in my capacity as the President of the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly, which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 11-15 March 2019.

Our Assembly will devote its attention to the theme “**Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production**”.

This theme will focus on sustainable innovation and strengthen our global commitment to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns). The key expectation for Environment Ministers is to provide guidance on how to drive the change towards a healthy environment and sustainable practices. The theme provides for a broad framework and enables discussion on solutions to important aspects in our everyday life from an environmental and sustainability dimension.

As President of the Assembly, I intend to build upon the call to action and commitments set out in December 2017 in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Third Session of the Assembly, entitled “Towards a pollution-free planet”.

I also wish to accelerate progress on the global environmental policy agenda and reinforcing the trends towards reducing pollution and sustainable lifestyles. I will initiate an inclusive process of consultations leading to the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration at the Fourth Environment Assembly that will represent firm commitments for future action and priorities from all Environment Ministers.

With this goal in mind, I welcome inputs in writing from Member States and stakeholders on possible outcomes of the Assembly by end of May 2018. Therefore, I invite you to share with me the following:

- Key priority areas within the agreed theme where we should concentrate our collective interventions towards the next Environment Assembly;
- Possible elements and key messages that could be used as building blocks for the Ministerial Declaration;
- Possible elements for an Implementation Plan against pollution, building on the outcomes of the Third Session of the Environment Assembly;
- Strategic partnerships and initiatives at national, regional and international levels with a multiplying effect and impact;
- Identification of strategic innovative solutions for environmental challenges that could have far-reaching positive impacts if implemented globally.

Your inputs will assist me in developing an initial outline for our Ministerial Declaration which I will share with you for further consideration by end of June 2018, in view of preparing a Zero Draft by end of August. As a general indication, I propose the following timeline:

May	Initial inputs from Member States and stakeholders
June	Draft outline for the Ministerial Declaration shared with Member States and stakeholders
June-July	Inputs to be received from member States and stakeholders on the draft outline
August	A “zero draft” of the Ministerial Declaration shared with Member States and stakeholders
September	Consultations on the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration at a joint preparatory retreat for the Bureaux of the Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Tallinn, Estonia, September 6-7, 2018)
October-Nov.	Informal consultations during regional ministerial preparatory meetings for the Environment Assembly, and with the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the UN Environment Programme and stakeholders



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



I look forward to working with you during the coming months towards a successful Fourth Environment Assembly, and to receiving your valuable contributions by **31 May** through the UN Environment Programme Secretariat ([unep.sgb@unep.org](mailto:unep.sgb@unep.org)) with copy to my Envoy Mr. Ado Lohmus ([ado.lohmus@envir.ee](mailto:ado.lohmus@envir.ee)).

**H.E. Siim Kiisler**  
**Minister of Environment of Estonia**  
**President of the UN Environment Assembly**

Ministers responsible for the Environment  
Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Major Groups and Stakeholders