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HON. NORALYN JUBAIRA-BAJA

Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of the United Nations and International Organizations
Department of Foreign Affairs
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Dear **Assistant Secretary Jubaira-Baja**:

This refers to your letter dated 11 May 2018 requesting the Department's inputs for the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) to be held on 11-15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Department welcomes and supports the leadership of H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler as President of UNEA including the UNEA-4 theme "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production". As our contribution to the UNEA-4, the Department proposes the following inputs for consideration in the initial outline of the Ministerial Declaration:

1. Key priority areas within the agreed theme

- Priority areas should revolve around the SDG 12 Indicators: environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle; prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse; adoption of sustainable practices; awareness setting; capacity building; monitoring and evaluation systems and addressing policy and market distortions leading to unsustainable production and consumption.
- Promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP), especially in the developing countries, by developing and implementing SCP policies and initiatives, particularly eco-friendly technologies, systems and practices that will facilitate the attainment of both economic goals and environmental standards.
- Holistic Waste Management and use of Innovative Technologies (i.e. use of closed-loop recycling or cradle-to-cradle approach in solid waste management, environmentally sound management of chemical and all wastes, use of waste-to-energy/biomass energy technology, wastewater technology and management) in view of SDG 12 Target 12.5
- Sustainable tourism in view of SDG 12 Target 12.B (i.e. use of science-based studies (carrying capacity, ecosystem services valuation) as input to environmental protection and management of tourist destination, integrated plans for management of tourism and biodiversity friendly enterprises, promotion of local culture/products)

- Forest certification and protection, and security of tenure on public forests and forestlands (SDG 12 Target 12.2). Forest certification promotes sustainable production and management of forests to produce timber. It also ensures that wood products sold in the domestic and international markets come from legal source and sustainably-managed forests/plantations.
 - Security of tenure on public forests and forestlands must be given to upland communities along with continuous technical assistance to ensure sustainability of resources. Several tenure instruments may be unified into a one single tenure instrument. This may help governments to unify spatial database and land register, address conflicts due to land/tenure claims, and for the government to regulate efficiently the issuance of such tenure.
2. Possible elements and key messages that could be used as building blocks for the Ministerial Declaration
- Initiatives of member countries to explore and use innovative solutions and environmentally-friendly best available technologies for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production
 - Reduce solid, toxic and hazardous wastes through the following measures: a) Establishment of material recovery facilities and treatment facilities; b) Formulation of solid waste management plans; c) Promotion of proper waste management through public awareness programs and invest in relevant technologies to improve solid waste management; and d) Proper management and disposal of electronic, hospital and toxic wastes.
 - Holistic Waste Management will help reduce waste generation thereby contributes not only to sustainable production and consumption of goods/products but also in reducing pollution. This includes the use of science-based studies and data/information for better decision-making and giving importance to local governance relative to sustainable production and consumption.
 - Regional cooperation and assistance to resource-poor member countries.
3. Possible elements for the implementation plan against pollution, building on the outcome of the Third Session of the Environment Assembly
- Technical and financial support to developing countries on their pollution management programs and projects such as improving their wastewater management by developing better domestic, commercial and industrial wastewater treatment facilities through public-private partnership (PPP).
 - Resources to push the resolutions and decisions called for in UNEA-3, particularly on technology and transfer, global scoreboard vis a vis time and targets, and national, regional and global platforms.
 - Use of airsheds as a management unit in combating air pollution including development of tools and systems for monitoring pollution.
4. Strategic partnership and initiatives of national, regional and international levels with a multiplying effect and impact
- Promote environmentally-sustainable transport in developing countries, including the mass transport system, use of cleaner fuels, and conversion of fuel-efficient engines.
 - Prospects on new agreements with specific targets and timelines in support of SDG 12 and the UNEA-3 Resolutions.
 - National scorecards of existing agreements and initiatives.

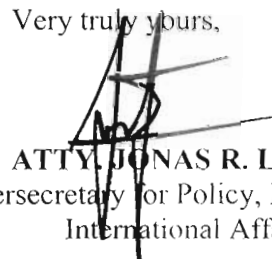
5. Identification of strategic innovative solutions for environmental challenges that could have far-reaching positive impacts if implemented globally

- Promote the application of biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices to ensure that agricultural development is compatible with the conservation of the ecosystem where the agricultural and fisheries activities are carried out. This would also assure the judicious use of the natural resources for sustainability and conserve the diversity of genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- Use of market-based instruments and indigenous knowledge and best practices including research and development to identify alternatives to address waste generation (e.g. plastics).
- Wealth Creation from Biodiversity Resources. At the national level, biodiversity is seen as a valuable resource of the country, however, at the local level (including businesses and enterprises) importance of biodiversity as a resource was not fully recognized. IEC campaigns on biodiversity relative to wealth creation should be done to raise awareness of the general public and more importantly of the decision and policy makers.
- Resource Valuation and Prioritization in contribution to Wealth Creation and Environmental Protection
- Integration of various environment and natural resources plan into the development plan at the local level, to include aspects of sustainable production and consumption.

We look forward to the consideration of the Department's inputs in the draft outline of the Ministerial Declaration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and
International Affairs