

With reference to the Committee Note 00134 and the letter from the President of the UN Environment Assembly of 2 May 2018, please find New Zealand's response following.

New Zealand thanks the President of the UN Environment Assembly for this chance to contribute ideas on possible outcomes of the Assembly.

On the theme for UNEA-4, "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production", New Zealand believes there are a number of possible key priority areas. Of particular importance is:

- the need to explore regulatory and non-regulatory tools to support innovation that will address environmental challenges;
- the need to encourage the private sector to invest in, and contribute to, environmental solutions;
- the desirability of encouraging sustainable consumption and production through international trade agreements; and,
- the sharing of knowledge, techniques and approaches between countries.

New Zealand would want to see the Ministerial Declaration including references to:

- the importance of moving to a circular economy model in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life;
- the importance of aligning the international environment agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 12, Responsible Consumption and Production;
- the urgency and importance of fully implementing existing multilateral environmental agreements to support sustainable consumption and production;
- recognition of the need for states to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies, such as subsidies for fossil fuels, fisheries and agriculture. Fossil fuel subsidy reform will deliver trade, economic, social and environmental benefits. Reform should be based on three principles – increased transparency around fossil fuel subsidies, ambitious reform and targeted support for the poorest;
- the role of climate-friendly agricultural practices and policies, as well as new technologies, in supporting sustainable food production including through improved productivity, resource efficiency, food safety, and lower environmental impacts; and,
- the need for action by all states, partners and stakeholders, including, but not limited to, governments, businesses, academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities and youth;

There are a number of strategic partnerships at the national, regional and international levels with a multiplying effect and impact, including, but not limited to:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development & the Sustainable Development Goals;
- The Paris Agreement;
- Regional organisations, such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme-

Technology and policies applicable to environmental challenges is a fast moving area. New Zealand wishes to highlight the following range of possible innovations that could have far-

reaching positive impacts if implemented globally:

- 3D printing;
- New materials, such as biodegradable plastics; and,
- Incentives and policies to shift production and consumption to more circular principles, including resource use, product design and waste management.

Further work will be required to determine the impact and potential of these technologies and innovative approaches. New Zealand supports further research and development.

New Zealand looks forward to seeing the draft outline for the Ministerial Declaration in June and providing further input as the process to finalise this document proceeds.