

**Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly**  
**“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”**

**Vision:** Sustainable, prosperous and inclusive societies that address key environmental challenges with innovative solutions and rely on responsible patterns of consumption and production

**Main priority 1: Ensure the access and use of global environmental data and develop innovative digital solutions.**

a) We commit to develop by 2021 a global environmental data strategy and action plan, under the auspices of relevant UN bodies, and establish an international high level multi-sectoral task force in this regard within the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment.

b) We strengthen existing and establish new comprehensive long-term and real-time environmental monitoring systems, including air and water quality, sand and dust storms, deforestation, marine litter ensure an open access to monitoring data. [These measures will enable early and rapid informed decision-making.](#)

c) We improve the integrated analysis of environmental data from traditional and new sources, including remote sensing, citizen science, and increase the use of artificial intelligence and big data analysis, in cooperation with the science community and private sector and maintaining the principles of ethics, governance, equity, transparency and security. [We recommend that the use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) be encouraged as this will enhance environmental monitoring, allowing rapid data collection, interpretation and thereby forecasting. We propose that Mobile or web-based Apps be developed for citizens and scientific professionals for collection of data and dissemination of information. This will promote a positive environmental culture in this digital age.](#)

d) We foster the improvement of scenario-building models to develop environment foresights, including food security, marine litter, desertification and extreme weather events.

e) We empower the disclosure of consumer information, starting with textile and plastic products by 2025, and we develop solutions for product transparency, including labelling systems and digital product resource passports, product environment footprint, and life-cycle models.

f) We invest in national environmental data management, and we invite the Executive Director to establish a dedicated programme for building the global environmental data management capacity.

g) [We propose that Environment Observatories be set up in each country under the aegis of the Ministry responsible for Environment or as a standalone agency. It could act, inter alia, as a ‘one-stop-information-shop’ on all environmental matters including environmental data, information on environmental business opportunities and sound environmental practices and latest technologies available in the field for evolution towards environmental harmony.](#)

h) [We recommend that each country prepare a Country Environmental Outlook Report on a yearly basis which could be produced by the Environment Observatories and which could be used as a monitoring/indexing tool to measure the country’s progress towards environmental protection.](#)

- i) [We further recommend that each country is equipped with a centralized data system for integrated data availability for holistic approach to environmental problem solving when incorporation with an AI system.](#)

**Main priority 2: Foster sustainable and efficient resource management to decarbonize, detoxify, decouple and enhance ecosystem resilience.**

- a) We improve national resource management strategies with an integrated life-cycle perspective to achieve a resource-efficient and circular economy, which significantly contributes to the achievement of sustainable consumption and production.
- b) We commit to align with One Planet Network and invite the Executive Director to strengthen Member States' capacity in developing policies on sustainable consumption and production.
- c) We implement sustainable land management measures, including afforestation, wetland restoration and mining area recultivation, to combat desertification, deforestation and biodiversity loss and to improve climate change [adaptation](#) and mitigation.
- d) We target the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices to support sustainable food production through improved value generation and to ensure food safety and security.
- e) We agree to define priority actions in order to guide the tourism sector towards enhanced sustainability to avoid the loss of biodiversity and preserve ecosystems, while supporting sustainable livelihoods.
- f) We foster the investments in innovative solutions for enabling access to clean energy and green infrastructure and expand the use of sustainable transportation, including electromobility.
- g) We develop and implement national sound waste prevention and management policies in line with waste hierarchy, with special focus on food, plastics, [electronic wastes](#) and marine litter.
- h) We agree to reuse and recycle at least [\[25\]](#)% of all waste generated by 2025.
- i) We develop a global approach and concert our efforts for long-term funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, as an essential requirement for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda goals, to be considered at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly.
- j) We develop strategies to phase out single-use plastics, starting with plastic bags, straws, plates, cups and cutlery by 2025, and encourage the private sector to find affordable and eco-friendly alternatives. We introduce economic incentives to upscale or recycle plastic bottles.
- k) We invite the relevant UN bodies to develop the global product sustainability and circularity criteria by 2021 to stimulate the market for sustainable products and secondary raw materials
- l) We agree to achieve that at least [\[X\]](#)% of total procurements will be sustainable public procurements by 2025, and if the current proportion exceeds already [\[X\]](#)%, to further increase it, ensuring the demand for sustainable products and services.
- m) We enforce producer responsibility incentives towards sustainable production and we commit to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies.
- n) We activate and accelerate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities, build innovative partnerships and ensure transparent funding for eco-innovative solutions.
- o) [We are dedicated towards the substitution of hazardous components with non-hazardous components with the aim to reduce hazardous wastes generation.](#)

- p) We ensure that any hazardous wastes generated are managed in an environmentally safe and sound manner, minimizing their impacts on public health and the environment.
- q) We target the use of E-goods that are more durable and have longer product lifespan, therefore minimising E-wastes generation.
- r) We recommend that each country make use of biodegradable material available locally in substitution of imported material, thereby lowering carbon footprint, including from sea transportation.
- s) We advocate for the promotion and enforcement of green building as well as construction in harmony with environmental terrain and features so as to minimize impacts on environment.
- t) We propose that legislations be amended that producers submit Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of their products so that comparison can be made for sustainable consumption and application of taxation (higher taxes for products with higher carbon footprint).
- u) We propose that Governments encourage and support, financially and technologically, Small and Medium Enterprises to setup environmental friendly businesses.

**Main priority 3: Support robust engagement of civil society, citizens, private sector and academia in promoting innovative approaches for meeting global environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.**

- a) We ensure for our citizens an access to environmental education and promote wider uptake of innovative approaches, such as inclusive citizen science and social innovation programmes.
- b) We are dedicated to the integration of responsible consumption and production policies into curricula and to raise awareness in society, including on food waste prevention.
- c) We engage citizens in improving their-- local environment by implementing nature based solutions.
- d) We stand for adequate resource allocations to research and development to drive innovation for the environment.
- e) We support the creation of new, innovative business opportunities and promote the wider application of indigenous traditional knowledge about environmentally friendly practices for more sustainable economies, with improvement in poverty eradication.
- f) We ensure the meaningful participation of civil society in the policy-making process.
- g) We invite organisations from private, public and civil society sectors to implement Corporate Social Responsibility policies
- h) We emphasize on the concept of Industrial Symbiosis where waste from one industry is used as raw material in another industry.
- i) We recommend the use of social media and Apps for an all-inclusive approach in tackling the environmental challenges and to foster sustainable production and consumption.
- j) We recommend that social entrepreneurship be introduced and strongly encouraged and supported with view to promoting innovative and/or revamped indigenous traditional practices to provide solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.

#### Proposed Priority 4

- We further recommend that yet another main priority be included to the document: same weightage and consideration be given to environmental factor as is given to economic and social factors and perspectives in governmental decision-making and national project approval and implementation.