

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 in harmony with nature

As ministers of the environment of the world, we recognise that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable, ~~and~~ promoting responsible patterns of consumption and production and protecting and sustainably managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are part of the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development and for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We acknowledge that the availability of transparent, reliable, comparable and accessible environmental data is vital for decision making.

We highlight the importance of creating synergies between sustainable and efficient uses of resources, maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems, while benefiting from their ecosystemic goods and services, and climate change adaptation and mitigation in achieving sustainable development goals.

We stress that cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels, developing partnerships and sharing the best practices are key in the development of inclusive sustainable solutions that leave no one behind.

We take into strong consideration the outcomes of the 6th Global Environment Outlook, the Global Resource Outlook and the Global Chemicals Outlook to support science-based decision making while also considering associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

We recognize the outcomes of the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted in the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires Argentina, October 9-12, 2018.

We take note of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as Escazú Agreement.

We recall the outcomes of the UN Environment Assemblies and stress that applying and scaling up innovative solutions for environmental challenges and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production are key pillars in our endeavor to move towards a sustainable planet and we commit to fulfil the following priorities:

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, binational watershed, and marine litter to ensure an open access to monitoring data.
- 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 according to different

national realities, capacities, and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

- 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 consumers with clear and transparent ~~the disclosure of consumer~~ information about the environmental and social impact of the products they purchase, 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.

Main priority 2: Foster sustainable and efficient resource management to decarbonize, detoxify, decouple and enhance ecosystem resilience taking into account different national realities, capacities, and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

- 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 encourage entrepreneurs working on solutions to face social, environmental and economic development challenges to increase productivity and innovation through sustainable consumption and production practices.
- c) 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.
- d) 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 mitigation and adaptation.
- e) We target the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices to support sustainable food production through improved value generation and to ensure food safety and security.
- f) We agree to define priority actions in order to guide the tourism sector towards globally adopted sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices ~~enhanced sustainability~~ to avoid the loss of biodiversity and preserve ecosystems, while supporting sustainable livelihoods.
- g) We foster the investments in innovative solutions for enabling access to clean energy and green infrastructure and expand the use of sustainable transportation, including electro-mobility in accordance with the New Urban Agenda adopted at UN Habitat III.
- h) We develop and implement national sound waste prevention and management policies in line with waste hierarchy, with special focus on food, plastics and marine litter including through the transition from non-biodegradable packaging materials to biodegradable packaging materials as well as through sharing of information, knowledge and best practices, capacity building.
- i) We agree to reuse and recycle at least [X]% of all waste generated by 2025.
- j) 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.
- k) We develop strategies to phase out single-use plastics, starting with plastic bags, straws, plates, cups and cutlery by 2025, including through, but not limited to, formal education programs to young children and informal education programs to people of all ages to create awareness to refuse single-use plastics by encouraging the widespread use of reusable containers, and encourage the private sector to find affordable and eco-friendly alternatives to single-use plastics. ~~We introduce economic incentives and~~ to upscale or recycle plastic bottles.

- l) 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
- m) 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.
- n) We enforce producer responsibility incentives towards sustainable production and we commit to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies.
- o) We activate and accelerate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities, build innovative partnerships and ensure transparent funding for eco-innovative solutions.
- p) We invite donors and partners to support Governments in the development and implementation of global, regional and national plans to achieve integrated waste management.

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 for ~~to~~ research and development to drive environmental innovation aimed at ~~for the environment~~ solving sustainable development challenges.
- 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, towards ~~with improvement in~~ poverty eradication.
- f) We ensure the meaningful participation of civil society and all relevant stakeholders in the policy-making process.
- g) We invite organisations from private, public and civil society sectors to fully commit with achievement of sustainable development and the full respect and protection of the environment, human rights and labour rights, in accordance with relevant international instruments, standards and other ongoing initiatives in this regard ~~implement Corporate Social Responsibility policies.~~

We invite the Executive Director to support the implementation of these commitments, as appropriate, and to provide a progress report on implementation of this Declaration at the seventh session of the UN Environment Assembly in 2025.

We endorse the adoption of the Implementation Plan on Pollution in consistency with the outcomes of the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.