



No: ERI-N/01/19.020
Date: 30 January 2019

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to UNEP presents its compliments to the Secretariat, Governing Bodies, United Nations Environment Program (SGB-UNEP), and has the honor to refer to the first full draft of the Ministerial Declaration for the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of Iraq would like to attach herewith additional comments and inputs from the Government of Iraq to the first full draft of the Ministerial Declaration document.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to UNEP avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat, Governing Bodies, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the assurance of its highest consideration.

Secretariat, Governing Bodies
United Nations Environment Program
(SGB-UNEP)
Nairobi



*Cc: Jorge Laguna-Celis
Mr. Ado Lohmus (President's Special Envoy)*



Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 United Nations Environment Assembly

“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”

1. We, the world’s Ministers of the Environment, having gathered at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, together with the representatives of international organizations and stakeholders, are dedicated to moving towards sustainable, prosperous and inclusive societies with sustainable consumption and production patterns that prevent and address environmental challenges with innovative solutions.

2. We reaffirm that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, including the circular economy [clarification required], and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development and we recognize that creative approaches and innovative solutions based on collaboration in matters of capacity-building and technology transfer can move our world closer to the vision set out in “The future we want” and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2bis We reiterate that damage and pollution caused by armed conflict or terrorism to the environment, often delaying recovery, undermining the achievement of sustainable development and threatening the **well being** of people and ecosystems.

3. We are, however, deeply concerned about the findings of the latest global environmental assessments which indicate, that our Planet is increasingly polluted, rapidly warming and quickly losing its biodiversity, and about the widespread unsustainable use of our natural resources.

4. We are determined as sovereign nations to ambitiously scale-up our efforts within our capabilities to overcome common environmental and health challenges through fostering sustainable and efficient resource management; ~~ensuring the access and use of environmental data,~~ engaging civil society, citizens, private sector and academia; and therefore agree to take the following actions:

(a) We will improve national resource **management** strategies with an integrated life-cycle approach to protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of chemicals and waste, and achieve a resource-efficient and circular economy;

(b) We will foster opportunities for the innovative substitution of hazardous substances in material cycles with the aim of achieving safe and non-toxic material flows;

(c) We will promote sustainable food systems by implementing sustainable agricultural practices, improving value generation and addressing food security, environmental health and human well-being in an integrated manner;

تعديلات دائرة المنظمات/ قسم البيئة

- (d) We will implement sustainable land and soil management measures, including afforestation, wetland and landscape restoration, to combat desertification and land degradation, sand and dust storms, deforestation, soil pollution, biodiversity loss and to improve climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- (e) We will share knowledge on policies, practices, and the best available techniques for the sustainable management of metal and mineral resources and we will enhance national policies;
- (f) We commit to harmonise international environmental data standards and we support the development of (a global environmental data strategy by 2025) (clarification required), under the auspices of relevant United Nations bodies;
- (g) We will improve environmental monitoring systems, including air and water quality, deforestation, marine litter, and (environmental security) (clarification required whether it is an intergovernmental agreed term), and we support the development of national environmental data management capacities; we will also promote the use of data analysis models to support evidence-based decision making at all levels ~~and work towards ensuring transparency of and open access to environmental data~~;
- (h) We will work towards defining appropriate and ambitious national targets for reducing waste generation, increasing the reuse of products, and recycling of waste by 2025;
- (i) We will decisively address the damage to our ecosystems caused by the unsustainable use and disposal of single-use plastic products, including by phasing-out most problematic single-use plastic products as early as 2025, and we encourage the private sector to find affordable and eco-friendly alternatives;
- (j) We will support the efforts to develop global products sustainability and circularity criteria by 2025 and we agree to set ambitious national targets on the use of sustainable public procurements to stimulate demand for environmentally sound products, processes and services;
- (k) We encourage the disclosure of product information to consumers and communities and we will promote the development of solutions, with special emphasis on (digital solutions) (clarification required), to increase transparency in product chains;
- (l) We will invest in environmental education in the framework of sustainable development with a strong gender focus and promote a wider use of innovative approaches, such as inclusive citizen science and (social innovation programmes) (clarification required);
- (m) We will promote and incentivize new eco-innovative business models and we will advocate the wider application of indigenous traditional knowledge about environmentally friendly practices for more sustainable economies and resilient societies;
- (n) We will accelerate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and solutions, and we will build innovative partnerships to unlock new capital for sustainable investments;
- (o) We will improve good practices of engagement to ensure the meaningful involvement of civil society, citizens, private sector and academia in the policy making process;
- (q) It is necessary that developed countries provide financial support, capacity building and technology investment and transfer to the developing countries, especially the most vulnerable**

5. We agree that the effective implementation of these actions requires enabling policy frameworks at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, and effective means of implementation including finance, capacity-building, mutually beneficial partnerships and the development, as mutually agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

6. We underscore the crucial role of overarching policy frameworks and the importance of coherent and robust approach to follow-up processes and we commit to develop ambitious post2020 global frameworks for biodiversity, in this regard we welcome the outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2018, and for the sound management of chemicals and waste with a corresponding approach to be considered at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly;

7. We invite the Executive Director to provide a progress report through the regular United Nations environmental assessment processes, including the Global Environment Outlook, the Global Chemicals Outlook and the Global Resource Outlook, to track the implementation of this Declaration, at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.