

INPUT of Roots for Equity - Farmer Major Group

Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production

Saturday 30 Nov 2018

Over all comment:

The draft Ministerial declaration, has a title “**Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.**” The title in itself raises the question on “whose innovative solutions”? Following the title, the statement is heavy on data systems and monitoring environmental challenges. It reads as a more technical document than a declaration with a strong political vision on genuine solutions against environmental challenged faced by the planet Earth and its inhabitants.

The declaration seems to be promoting science for business rather science for serving the people. The citizen science or people science, which is based on the communities’ centuries, based knowledge and wisdom are not acknowledged. There is enough factual data present that the use of science and data for commercial and profit purpose has actually led to the present environmental crisis acknowledged by the highly scientific community of the FPCCC. Sustainable consumption is only possible through production systems that will accept that production and consumption has to be need based, and not market-led for profit. Only an inter and intra-generational resource utilization based on redistributive justice can lead to a prosperous society. Hence the focus must be on promoting and strengthening community-led innovative solutions and investment.

On one hand, it is evident that the declaration fails to address the systemic barriers to environmental challenges that can lead to sustainable consumption and production. It is also critical to point out that communities face corporate plunder, land grabbing, community harassment and killings of activists and environmental defender; the declaration needs to address the injustices and rights of those who are in the fore front of defending the environment. On the other hand, it is unfortunate, that the document acknowledges the private sector which is largely responsible for many of the environmental challenges the world is facing today.

For small and landless farmers, promotion of agro-ecological mode of agricultural production based on food sovereignty framework is the most vital innovative solution for sustainable agricultural production and consumption

Input on draft Ministerial Declaration Text:

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

As ministers of the environment of the world, we recognize that poverty eradication, **decent livelihood**, changing unsustainable **while** promoting responsible patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development **particularly of marginalized communities**, are the overarching objectives of essential requirements for sustainable development

We acknowledge that the availability of transparent, **credible, reliable, accessible environmental data** through **genuine community participatory research** is vital for decision making.

We highlight the importance of creating synergies between sustainable and efficient uses of resources, maintaining and restoring healthy, **sustainable** ecosystems, and climate change adaptation and mitigation in achieving sustainable development goals **based on principle of CBDR and free prior informed consent**.

We stress that cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels **especially at the community level**, developing partnerships and sharing the best practices is 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

Peoples science-based approach is essential for decision making on global environment and climate change. All science-based approaches should be based on ensuring that sustainable patterns of consumption and ensured maintaining and increasing our biodiversity base **and also ensuring communities rights to all kind of natural resources**.

We recall the outcomes of the UN Environment Assemblies and stress that applying and scaling up innovative solutions **especially people's innovate 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 fulfill the following priorities:

Main priority 1: Ensure the access and use of global environmental data and develop innovative models of 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 **which include all stakeholders**, in this regard within the UN Science-Policy-Business **and Peoples'** 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.
- 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 other stakeholders** and maintaining the principles of ethics, governance, equity, transparency, security **and accountability**.
- 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, genetically modified foods by 2025, and we develop solutions for product transparency, including labeling 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 commit to invest in community based innovation for sustainable consumption and production.**

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 **on the principle of CBDR**.
- 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 mitigation.
- d) We target the implementation of sustainable **and agro-ecological** agricultural practices to support sustainable food production through improved value generation and to ensure **safe and nutritious food**.
- 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 electro-mobility.
- g) 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.
- h) We agree to reuse and recycle at least [X]% 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 **communities and** 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 **community** sustainable and innovative financing opportunities build innovative partnerships and ensure transparent **and accountable** funding for eco-innovative solutions.

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 and **sustainable** 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 **based on principle of CBDR.**
- 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 **and ensure decent livelihood.**
- 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.

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.