

WORLD ANIMAL NET COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE 2019 UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

These comments were prepared based on input from World Animal Net's (WAN's) International Policy Forum, a forum for NGOs and experts working on animal issues. One over-riding concern was that the draft lacks ambition and needs to be injected with a greater sense of urgency and commitment. We are also highly concerned about the language included which fails to recognize the intrinsic value of ecosystems and the environment, and instead reduces these to the "natural resource base" measured only by their utility to social and economic development. Ecosystems are more than the sum of their parts. However, we were pleased to see the inclusion of food waste in the draft.

The below indicates the line-by-line suggestions made using **additions** and ~~striketroughs~~.

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~~ **promote responsible patterns of consumption and production**

As ministers of the environment of the world, we recognise that **economic and social development and poverty eradication can only be achieved sustainably by protecting our environment, animals and natural resources, which necessitates strong action to** ~~changeing~~ **promoting** ~~ing~~ **responsible patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. **We recognise the urgency of tackling these issues, with the world population expected to reach 9.7 billion in 2050; and four out of nine planetary boundaries (climate change, biosphere integrity, land-systems and biogeochemical cycles) already having been crossed as a result of human activity.****

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

We acknowledge that education is key for preparing and changing behaviour in consumption for future generations by working on curriculums and pedagogy with teaching staff who are tasked with the responsibility of providing scientifically credible information and empowering and motivating youth to take action both as consumers and as citizens.

We highlight the importance of creating synergies between sustainable and efficient uses of resources **within ecological limits**, maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems, and climate change adaptation and mitigation in achieving **the** sustainable development goals.

We stress that **meaningful** cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels, ~~developing~~ **accountable** partnerships, and **developing and** sharing the best practices are key in **forging** ~~the development of~~ inclusive sustainable solutions that leave no one behind **and keep us within planetary boundaries**.

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 **and people-centred** decision making.

We **pledge to revisit and implement** ~~recall~~ the outcomes of the UN Environment Assemblies. **Further, we** ~~and~~ stress that applying and scaling up innovative solutions for environmental challenges and promoting **and incentivising** sustainable patterns of consumption and production are key pillars in our endeavour to move towards a sustainable planet. ~~and~~

~~We~~ **we therefore fully** commit to **deliver** ~~fulfil~~ the following priorities:

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

- a) ~~To We~~ **To** ~~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 **and multi-stakeholder** task force in this regard within the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum **and the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum** on the Environment.
- b) ~~To We~~ **To** ~~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, **and environmental security and** ensure an open access to monitoring data.
- c) ~~To We~~ **To** ~~improve the integrated analysis of environmental data from~~ **indigenous, local**, traditional and new sources, including remote sensing, **geographic information systems**, citizen science, and increase the use of artificial intelligence and big data analysis, in cooperation with the science community and private sector **and civil society**, and maintaining the principles of ethics, governance, **inclusivity**, equity, transparency and security.
- d) ~~To We~~ **To** ~~foster the improvement of scenario-building models to develop environment foresights,~~ including **sustainable food systems and** food security, **healthy soil, water quality and levels, waste elimination**, marine litter, **land degradation and** desertification and extreme weather events.

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

f) ~~To 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) To develop indicators for sustainable development, production and consumption that are not based on economic growth but on well-being and equity. To support the ongoing efforts to incorporate Consumption-Based Emission indicators (CBEI) in the environmental assessment of products and services to reflect the emissions of upscale production and transport in products and services.

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

a) ~~To 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) ~~To We commit to~~ align with One Planet Network and invite the Executive Director to strengthen Member States' capacity in developing **and implementing** policies on sustainable consumption and production.

c) ~~To We~~ implement sustainable land management measures, including afforestation, wetland restoration and mining area re-cultivation, to combat **pollution, land degradation and** desertification, deforestation and biodiversity loss and to improve climate change mitigation.

d) ~~To We~~ target the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices to support **humane and** sustainable food production through **agro-ecological approaches**, improved value generation **and land and resource efficiency**, and to ensure food safety and security **and the restoration of biodiversity and degraded soils**.

d1) To foster livestock systems in which animals convert materials that cannot be consumed by humans into food that we can eat and discourage the use of human-edible crops as animal feed.

d2) To encourage sustainable food consumption patterns that avoid undue use of resource-intensive foods that have a large environmental footprint.

e) ~~We agree to~~ **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) ~~To 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 **and climate-neutral public transportation**.

g) **To** develop and implement national sound waste prevention and management policies **throughout the production, marketing, distribution and consumption cycle** in line with waste hierarchy, with special focus on food, plastics and marine litter.

h) ~~We agree to~~ **To** reuse and recycle at least [X]% of all waste generated by 2025.

i) ~~We~~ **To** 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~~ **To** **set targets** 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, **and demand transparency and disclosure of plastic footprints from countries and companies.**

k) ~~We~~ **To** 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 **already** exceeds ~~already~~ [X]%, to further increase it, ensuring the **progressively rising** demand for sustainable products and services.

m) ~~We~~ **To** enforce producer responsibility incentives towards sustainable production and we commit to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies.

n) ~~We~~ **To** reactivate and accelerate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities, build innovative partnerships and ensure transparent funding for eco-innovative solutions.

n1) To provide financial incentives for eco-innovative solutions and end subsidies and loans which support unsustainable production and consumption practices.

n2) To support the move towards circular economies in order to achieve sustainable consumption and production.

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~~ **To** 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~~ **To** integration of responsible consumption and production policies into curricula and to raise awareness in society, including on food waste prevention **and the impact of diets on the environment and health.**

c) ~~We~~ **To** engage **and support** citizens in **actively** improving their-- local environment by implementing nature-based solutions.

- d) ~~We commit to stand for~~ **provide** adequate **and equitable** 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~~ **development** economies, with ~~improvement in~~ **accelerated** poverty eradication.
- f) ~~We ensure the meaningful participation of civil society in the policy-making process.~~
- g) ~~We~~ **call on** ~~invite~~ organisations from private, public and civil society sectors to implement **pro-humane and sustainable development** Corporate Social Responsibility **and accountability** policies
- h) To support multi-stakeholder initiatives to promote equitable consumption practices, and addressing overconsumption by the global rich, specifically addressing growing energy consumption through increasing sizes of houses, increasing meat and dairy consumption, and lack of access to sustainable transportation options.**

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.

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.