

## **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, recall the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assemblies and *are dedicated* to address environmental challenges through advancing innovative solutions and to move towards sustainable and resilient societies through sustainable consumption and production patterns;
2. We *reaffirm* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable 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 and we *recognize* that innovative approaches and solutions are necessary to move our world closer to the vision set out in “The future we want” and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. We *are, however, deeply concerned* about the findings of relevant global environmental assessments which indicate that, despite the availability of solutions to our common environmental challenges, our planet is increasingly polluted, affected by the adverse effects of climate change, quickly losing its biodiversity, and experiencing widespread environmental degradation;
4. We *undertake* measures to invest in integrated, innovative and coherent approaches in policy development and implementation, to spearhead poverty eradication efforts through sustainable environment and natural resources management;
5. We *are determined* to ambitiously scale-up our efforts to overcome common environmental, including health related challenges in a balanced and integrated manner through identifying and developing innovative solutions by fostering sustainable and efficient resource management; promoting the use and sharing of environmental data and engaging civil society, citizens, indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector, academia and all other relevant stakeholders as appropriate; and therefore *decide*, taking into account our national circumstances, to take the following actions:
  - a) We *will improve* national resource management strategies with an integrated full life-cycle approaches and analysis to achieve resource-efficient and low-carbon economies;
  - b) We *will advance* sustainable consumption and production patterns, including, but not limited to, through circular economy and other sustainable economic models and the implementation of 10YFP;

- c) We *will promote* innovation and knowledge sharing in chemicals and waste management to achieve safer and less-toxic material flows in order to protect human health and the environment;
- d) We *will promote* sustainable food systems by encouraging the implementation of sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, improving value generation, and significantly reducing waste and energy use along the food supply chain to help to ensure food security and ecosystem functions and services;
- e) We *will implement* sustainable ecosystems restoration, conservation and landscape management measures to combat biodiversity loss, land degradation, droughts, soil erosion and pollution, desertification and sand and dust storms;
- f) We *will share* knowledge on implementation of strategies and best practices for sustainable management of metal and mineral resources;
- g) We *will undertake* actions to restore and protect marine and coastal ecosystems, noting that the United Nations Environment Programme's Marine and Coastal Strategy can contribute to our collective efforts in this area;
- h) We *will work* towards comparable international environmental data and we *support* the United Nations Environment Programme to develop a global environmental data strategy by 2025 in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies;
- i) We *will improve* national environmental monitoring systems and technologies including for air, water and soil quality, biodiversity, deforestation, marine litter, chemicals and waste, and we *encourage* the development of national environmental data management capacities;
- j) We *will promote* the use of data analysis models to develop environment foresights, support evidence-based decision making and improve national and local preparedness and responses to mitigate environmental degradation and risks from disasters and conflicts in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- k) We *will work* towards developing policies for sound waste management and defining appropriate and ambitious national targets at the earliest opportunity for reducing waste generation, increasing the reuse of products and recycling of waste, respectively and we *will work* towards improving the environmental quality of our cities;
- l) We *will address* the damage to our ecosystems caused by the unsustainable use and disposal of plastic products, including by significantly reducing single-use plastic products by 2030, and we *will work* with the private sector to find affordable and environmentally friendly alternatives;
- m) We *will support* global efforts to develop sustainable products and services and we *encourage* to set ambitious national goals on the use of sustainable procurements to stimulate demand for environmentally sound products, processes and services;
- n) We *encourage* the disclosure of appropriate product information to consumers and we *will promote* the development of measures to increase transparency in product chains;
- o) We *will invest* in environmental research, education and awareness raising in the framework of sustainable development with a strong focus on women and youth and we *promote* a wider use of innovative approaches, such as inclusive citizen science;
- p) We *respect* indigenous and local knowledge on environmentally friendly practices and promote the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities;

- q) We *will promote* sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and mechanisms to unlock new capital for sustainable investments and upscaling of sustainable business models, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises;
- r) We *will seek out* innovative solutions to environmental challenges by *strengthening* public-private-academia partnerships for accelerating the uptake and upscaling of those solutions;
- s) We *ensure* the active participation of civil society, citizens, indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders in achieving sustainable development, and we *promote* their effective engagement.

6. We *recognize* that the effective implementation of these actions requires enabling and coherent policy frameworks, good governance and law enforcement at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels and effective means of implementation, including finance, capacity building, environmentally sound technologies and developing partnerships in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

7. We *welcome* the progress made in the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in 2018 and *appreciate* the initiative of the Arab Republic of Egypt in this regard and we *commit* to develop an ambitious and realistic post-2020 global biodiversity framework expected to be adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020 in the People's Republic of China;

8. We *stress* the need for concerted efforts towards achieving the 2020 goals for the sound management of chemicals and an enabling framework for international sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 for possible consideration at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

9. We *welcome* the outcomes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice;

10. We *request* the Executive Director to track the implementation of the actions set out in this declaration through the regular environmental assessment processes and to support our national efforts including through the regional and sub-regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme and we *request* the Executive Director to provide a progress report, in collaboration with Member States, for our consideration at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.