



Inputs from Norway to the UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration - 25.05.17

Norway wishes to thank H.E. Dr. Gutierrez-Espeleta for taking the initiative to start consultations on a negotiated outcome for the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), 4 - 6 December 2017. It is important that all Member States have the opportunity to participate in the process.

Norway remains fully committed to working towards a negotiated outcome from UNEA-3. UNEA is the forum, which brings together all the world's ministers responsible for the environment and so provides a unique opportunity to send a strong political signal. As has been emerged from the discussions in Nairobi, the outcome should be action- and solution-oriented. It should be short and meaningful to more than just the participants of UNEA and should also reach out to other sectors.

UNEA-3 offers a unique opportunity in light of the decision to have one theme for the meeting. The outcome should convey what actions that are being taken on pollution and offer an opportunity for accountability through some form of follow-up mechanism.

Given the breadth of issues which pollution covers, we should resist the temptation to cover too many issues in such an outcome. Rather, the view of Norway, the outcome should focus on actions taken, objectives and where appropriate, overarching and guiding principles. The outcome should inspire dialogue and engagement between all sectors: including government, private and civil society (in its broadest sense). The outcome of UNEA-3 should motivate the interested to look further into details of what was agreed and committed to. The negotiated outcome should show that UNEA has indeed contributed in a tangible way to a pollution-free world. In this respect, the elements of the letter from the President of the UNEA bureau provides a very useful starting point.

One clear overarching principle should be a clear linkage to Agenda 2030, which among other things underscores that a "pollution-free world" is an inseparable part of "Transforming our world".

Achieving this will require an innovative approach. At this stage we would propose an in principle agreement that we avoid a ministerial declaration in a traditional sense. Such ministerial declarations tend to require long preambles addressing issues that are potentially divisive. Ideally, the focus should be on a few concrete, action-oriented operative paragraphs. Such a negotiated outcome would, in our view, better bridge the gap between the intergovernmental meetings and the rest of the world. Such an outcome could also be a useful tool for ministers to use at home.

Norway believes that the preparation of the outcome must be informed by the leadership dialogues, commitments, and draft resolutions, which will be on the agenda for the meeting. The preparation should therefore be in parallel to that preparatory process. Norway agrees that as much as possible of the outcome document should be negotiated before UNEA-3 in a transparent process. We remain ready to contribute and work with Dr. Gutierrez, and the UNEA bureau, to achieve this.