

The United States appreciates our positive collaboration with the Secretariat and Member States to plan a successful Assembly. In response to UNEA President Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta's May 8 letter, however, the United States would like to reiterate our opposition to negotiating a Ministerial Declaration at UNEA-3. We suggest that a Chair's Summary of the UNEA-3 proceedings could instead accurately reflect the full range of views expressed during the meeting, while allowing us to focus the work of the Assembly on more productive endeavors.

Our objection noted, we would also like to comment on several points raised in Dr. Gutierrez-Espeleta's letter:

- We would caution against setting unachievable objectives (such as “...to make a pollution free planet by 2030”) and against including overly prescriptive actions (as in the bulleted list of actions). We would suggest, instead, language that emphasizes sustainable and achievable efforts to reduce pollution and human exposure to pollution. In this regard, for example, we would suggest language reducing rather than eliminating marine litter, or for all countries to adopt national laws to eliminate lead in paint rather than instituting a global ban.
- We also recommend positive language emphasizing global resolve to harness technology and innovation in tackling the pollution challenge and removing excessively negative language, such as in the opening paragraph (*Pollution is destroying our ecosystem, affecting human health, hampering long-term economic growth and exacerbating social inequalities*)..
- We suggest emphasizing the broad benefits to reducing pollution rather than text that emphasizes “leaving no one behind.”
- We recommend characterizing UNEP as an institution rather than an authority.
- We suggest replacing technology transfer language with language emphasizing availability and access to technology.
- We recommend dropping psychological references to transforming collective and individual mindsets, values and behaviors.

The U.S. Administration has not defined its policies on all the issues raised in the letter and we reserve the right to provide further comments in the future.

The above comments are intended to emphasize our commitment to strong actions and cooperation among partners to address these critical issues. We offer them as indications of positive, realistic actions. We do not intend any of the comments to convey endorsement of the format or the suggestion to include them in a formally negotiated outcome. We thank the UNEA President for his constructive efforts.