

## **Response to Draft Outline Document, Ministerial Outcome Document for UNEA-3**

We affirm the direction offered by the President of the UN Environment Assembly to draft a ministerial outcome document ahead of UNEA-3. The shortened time frame for preparations for this UN Environmental Assembly, as well as a shorter period for the Assembly itself -- combined with the complexity of the subject proposed -- make such a document essential.

We offer two suggestions for the outline document that has been circulated, along with a further suggestion for an additional perspective we believe, as a Major Groups and Stakeholders participant, is crucially important:

First, in response to concerns about UNEA-3 being perceived as directing member states or reaching prescriptive conclusions about their domestic affairs, we consider that aspirational language is not only appropriate, but necessary. It provides a general framework within which to consider the resolutions proposed for UNEA-3, so that they may be placed in a broader context of sustainable environmental governance, however narrow the specific scope of any particular resolution. This would enable member states and others more effectively to promote the work of UN Environment in addressing the causes and effects of pollution once the Assembly is concluded. Beyond this aspirational language, moreover, we suggest that any prescriptive sections be directly tied to targets already agreed upon in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the respective goals related to managing pollution, as these have already been negotiated by member states.

Second, in terms of the need to mobilize all possible constituencies toward “a pollution-free planet” that reflects a sustainable set of values and priorities, we suggest the addition of language identifying the important roles played by both indigenous peoples and faith communities world-wide as they advocate and embody ways to “live with respect in Creation.”

Respectfully submitted,

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(on behalf of the United Church of Canada, MGS-NGO)