

Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly
“Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”

This draft outline has been prepared by the President of the Assembly for consideration by Member States and stakeholders. It includes a structured list of initial points shared by the President with all Members of the Assembly on 8 May 2017 and Member States and stakeholders are invited to continue to share their views and contributions.

Member States, including through their respective regional Ministerial Fora and political groups, are invited to send their inputs to the Secretariat (unep.sgb@unep.org) at the latest by the 30 June 2017. In early July, the President will submit a Zero Draft Document for consideration by Member States taking into account all the feedback and positions received with a view to producing a coherent, concise, and action-oriented document.

Introduction:

- As the representatives of our governments, we are determined to take the bold and necessary steps to address pollution at every level in order to improve the health and lives of all people on this planet, the developmental aspirations of current and future generations, and the immeasurable wealth of the environment and the natural resources upon which we all depend;
- The UN Environment Programme, with its governing body, the UN Environment Assembly, is the leading UN institution on the environment. Both are key in keeping the state of the environment under review and in addressing urgent environmental challenges of global and regional significance, such as pollution;
- Tackling the challenge of pollution will also require collective action beyond the UN Environment Programme and its governing body and, in this regard, we urge the other inter-governmental bodies, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and all other stakeholders, including business leaders, to contribute towards our effort;
- We invite all governments, businesses, communities and people, and all other stakeholders to work towards a pollution-free planet by determining their own contributions and commitments to achieve our vision.

Vision:

- Our goal, collectively, should be moving towards a pollution-free planet. Urgent action is our responsibility;
- Reducing pollution means positively transforming our world. It will help ensure that we, as humanity, make a leap towards a healthier, safer, and more sustainable future, with benefits for all;
- More people will be able to leave poverty behind;
- We will reduce pollution to protect the health of everyone on this planet, today and in the future;
- Safer and cleaner technologies should drive our economies;
- We will transform our societies to become more sustainable, resource efficient and able to support the needs of present and future generations;
- Working towards a cleaner environment which advances broader ideals of peace, security and stability will help us promote inclusive societies, which respect human rights and gender empowerment;

- We will increase global, regional and national knowledge, awareness and education around pollution sources, impacts, and solutions.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Pollution affects everybody. It is a massive global challenge with consequences far beyond the environment;
- Pollution is damaging our ecosystems, affecting human health, hampering long-term economic growth and exacerbating social inequalities;
- The increasing pollution of our air, water, land and seas is a major obstacle towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by our leaders in 2015;
- We welcome the many pledges and voluntary commitments being made by Governments, business and civil society as actions towards the achievement of our vision in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and we will consider the following steps/actions, as appropriate;
- The solutions to reduce and prevent pollution are available and moving onto a more sustainable path lies in our hands.

Transformative Steps and Actions for Consideration:

- Reduce all waste, through increased prevention, reuse and recycling of materials, innovation, and use of clean technologies;
- Work with the private sector to identify and implement market based solutions and alternatives to reduce all forms of pollution;
- Improve protection of the environment, ecosystems, and the health of people everywhere, including through coherent and well-implemented policies and laws to reduce pollution, including setting high levels of protection for air, land and water quality, based on scientific evidence and data;
- Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies through national and local capacity building and institutional strengthening, including monitoring and accountability systems;
- Prevent and reduce major sources of marine litter, including plastics and microplastics;
- Accelerate efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes, , including eliminating lead paint;
- Reduce, by half, the amount of untreated wastewater entering water bodies;
- Substantially improve air quality in cities to within healthy levels for humans;
- Work with the local governments of the world towards promoting sustainable models of urban development that encourage cleaner and livable cities;
- Encourage all countries to expand use of the best available science and technologies available towards combating the threat of pollution in all its forms;
- Reinforce existing multi-stakeholder partnerships, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and the people of the world.