

Second Joint Preparatory Retreat of the Bureaux
of the UN Environment Assembly and
the Committee of Permanent Representatives
9 – 10 June 2017
Hotel Villa Caletas (Pacífico Central)
Puntarenas, Costa Rica

**Note on Member States inputs to the Ministerial
Outcome Document**

The Secretariat submits a compilation of inputs received as of 2 June, from Member States, reflecting positions, priorities, and considerations in relation to the Ministerial Outcome Document. As per the letter of the President of the UN Environment Assembly dated on June 1st, 2017, members States are invited to send their inputs to the Secretariat at the latest by the 30 June 2017.

Contents:

- 1- Inputs from the United States (received 13.04.2017)**
- 2- Inputs from China (received 22.05.2017)**
- 3- Inputs from Montenegro (received 22.05.2017)**
- 4- Inputs from the European Union (received 23.05.2017)**
- 5- Inputs from Mexico (received 24.05.2017)**
- 6- Inputs from Norway (received 25.05.2017)**
- 7- Inputs from Peru (received 26.05.2017)**
- 8- Inputs from Argentina (received 29.05.2017)**
- 9- Inputs from Singapore (received 01.06.2017)**

1- Inputs from the United States (received 13.04.2017)

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.

2- Inputs from China (received 22.05.2017)

1. Page 2, Paragraph 4 (Bullet Point 7), add phrase as underlined below:

1. We invite all Governments, businesses, communities and people ...and to support our call to action by determining their own contributions and commitments based on the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) to achieve our vision

2. Page 2, Paragraph 4 (Bullet Point 7), add the following points as underlined below:

We invite all Governments, businesses, communities and people ...

- In accordance with the Bali Roadmap and Addis Ababa Action Agenda, enhance support on clean technology transfer and green finance to the developing countries on pollution reduction is crucial to achieving a pollution free planet.
 - South-South cooperation is crucial for achieving the pollution-related Sustainable Development Goals, and efforts should be made to enhance such cooperation through regional development initiatives such as the “Belt and Road” Initiative.
- 2. Page 2, Paragraph 4 (Bullet Point 7), sub-point 6 to 9 on *marine litter, global ban on lead in paint, reducing untreated wastewater, and improve air quality in cities.***

These statements are negotiation languages including clear quantitative goals. Hence they should be removed as there is neither any negotiation conducted nor any consensus reached by member states.



**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations
and other International Organizations
GENEVA**

No. *UNEP/22-1*

Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of Governing Bodies and has the honour to enclose initial inputs of the Government of Montenegro for a draft Ministerial Declaration to be developed and put forward for adoption as a political statement linked to the theme of the Third United Nations Environment Assembly "Towards a Pollution Free Planet".

Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other International Organizations would highly appreciate if the Secretariat of Governing Bodies could bring the inputs to the attention of H.E. Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta, Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica and President of the UN Environment Assembly.

Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of Governing Bodies the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name of the representative of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro.

Geneva, the 5th of May 2017



United Nations Environment Programme Secretariat of Governing Bodies

G e n e v a

Initial inputs of the Government of Montenegro for a Ministerial Declaration to be put forward for the adoption at the UNEA-3

- The Government of Montenegro fully endorses the title of the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly, which will be "Towards a Pollution Free Planet". We commend the initiative put forward by the President of the UN Environment Assembly, H.E. Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta, Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica to commence a broad and highly inclusive process for developing a Ministerial Declaration as a political statement linked to the theme of the Assembly. The Government of Montenegro will use relevant international fora to express its commitments to this process, including through participation of H.E. Ambassador Milorad Šćepanović in his capacity of the Vice-President of UNEA-3 at the second Preparatory Retreat for the Environment Assembly to be held in Costa Rica and at the European Ministerial Consultations on the UNEA-3 to be held in Ostrava in June 2017.
- The Government of Montenegro supports the idea of developing a Ministerial Declaration as a consensual political statement, global in focus and actionable. The Ministerial Statement should present a political commitment to the environmental dimension of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and to reducing and eradicating pollution as one of the prerequisite for healthy environment and long-term sustainable economic growth. In the consultation process we, the international community with its relevant stakeholders, should strive to concretize our responses to specific pollution related targets of the 2030 Agenda. The UNEA-3 is a unique opportunity to strengthen the voice of the environment and environmental pillar of sustainable development and to offer widely acceptable flexible and effective solutions. For that reason the commitment of UNEA - 3 to specific global actions to reduce pollution has an utmost importance.
- The Declaration should recognize a number of challenges in restoring and sustaining pollution free and healthy planet - primarily by reducing increase of anthropogenic pressures on natural resources and by providing interface of healthy environment and healthy people. It is a tremendous challenge we have to meet while we are trying to apply effective mechanisms to stop the overexploitation of natural resources and to reduce linear dependence of economic growth from natural resources consumption.
- The Ministerial Declaration should systematize short- and long-term commitments and actions towards achieving depollution, that could be focused on:
 - The control of pollution at source and continual and comprehensive monitoring of air, water, sea, biodiversity and soil quality with identification of the causal - consequential relations of environmental pressures and their impacts on humans and biodiversity;
 - The improvement of air, water, sea, soil quality, followed with the measures aimed at elimination of threat to forest, habitats, species, water and coastal ecosystems;
 - Reduction of the environmental risks;
 - Protection and sustainable use of marine resources and coastal zone with reduction of main pressures to marine environment;
 - Marine litter management;
 - Sound waste management, safe chemical management and industrial pollution control;
 - The scientific researches in order to deliver reliable data for improving the status of environment and ensuring the efficient pollution control;

- The inclusive growth and the knowledge-based development through a meaningful interface of the scientific researches with the policy and decision making processes;
- The use of specific and multi-disciplinary indicators, primarily the UN sustainable development indicators.
- **The Ministerial Declaration should be built around some of the most relevant SDGs targets:**
 - 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination;
 - 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally;
 - 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management;
 - 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international framework, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize the adverse impacts on human health and the environment;
 - 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from Land based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.
- **The Government of Montenegro perceives the complex topic of depollution as interlinked with the introduction of green economy. Therefore an attention could be drawn to synergy of achieving pollution-free planet and some of the important steps towards achieving green economy, at least with the following ones:**
 - Move towards carbon neutral development through GHG reduction for 30% until 2030 compared to 1990;
 - Improve resource efficiency in key economic sectors;
 - Improve waste management towards circular economy;
 - Support sustainable valorisation and preservation of marine resources and blue economy;
 - Green the economy by promoting and implementing sustainable consumption and production;
 - Apply social responsibility tools;
 - Increase competitiveness of economy through green jobs.
- **Finally, the declaration should shortly recognize how UNEP and UNEA could support the process of localization and implementation of relevant SDGs, including through regional responses. As to enforce implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda, the expected UNEA-3 outcome document should have a key importance. The role of the UNEP and UNEA is indispensable in building partnerships within the UN system and of the UN system with relevant international stakeholders, as well as in directing concerted effort to support national stakeholders. For example, UNEP/MAP should continue to play an important role in providing regional forum for exchange of experience, but also to be the key regional fora for delivering on environmental dimension of sustainable development in Mediterranean region thus providing support to depollution of our planet through depollution of Mediterranean Sea. UNEP should make all possible efforts to support national implementation of environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda. All relevant partnerships should be created as to serve to that purpose. Global Environmental Facility potentials should be redesigned as to better fit into priorities of delivering on environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda. However,**

we have to be also aware of the needs to create other instruments and tools to support concerted efforts which have to ensure linkages between global initiatives and regional and national responses to the challenges related to depollution of our planet. The declaration could also recognize that the assumption of assumption of delivering on environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda, in addition to political support and good governance model, without doubt, is the financing of sustainable development. It is necessary to adapt the system of financing for sustainable development with the needs to implement SDGs. Namely, in the period up to now key shortcomings were related to the lack of financial instruments that should enable the expansion of the base for financing sustainable development policy.

- **We wish to emphasize that all the above listed priorities take also the central place in the new National Sustainable Development Strategy of Montenegro until 2030. Our new strategy recognizes the protection of natural capital as the key priority theme for sustainability of Montenegrin society. The Government of Montenegro remains at the disposal for further clarifications of the individual points of our initial inputs and look forward to further engage in the consultations process.**

4- Inputs from the European Union (received 23.05.2017)

- The EU and its Member States welcome the initiative launching a process to develop a UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration. We fully support the objectives and form highlighted in the letters by the UNEA President of 5th April and 8th May 2017, which we believe form a good basis for a Declaration that is concise, understandable, action-oriented and meaningful. The Declaration should demonstrate the difference UNEA can make to people's everyday lives, and be appealing and attractive to the public and stakeholders.
- We support the President's recognition that all countries have a responsibility to take urgent action, to make the necessary linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate, to set out concrete ambitions to tackle pollution.
- At this stage, we would like to share a few elements that should be added or further strengthened:
 - In addition to the impacts of pollution identified in the letter, such as on human wellbeing and health, the quality of our air, water and soil, on marine environment, biodiversity and ecosystems, poverty eradication, gender, security and social and economic development, we would like to note also the links to climate, food security, food safety, consumer protection and vulnerable groups. Effectively tackling pollution can potentially bring significant benefits in all these and other areas and this should be explicitly acknowledged;
 - Recognize key sources of pollution as well as their cross-media interlinkages and the need to address pollution in an integrated way, to avoid cross-media transfers;
 - Highlight successful principles and approaches and their related benefits;
 - Recognize that sustainable consumption and production (SCP), Circular Economy and Green Economy or similar concepts are important to avoid or reduce pollution;
 - Identify areas and actions for Member States to avoid or reduce pollution. We would like to see the following added to the elements already identified:
 - improving availability of and access to relevant data and information;
 - preventive actions and a risk management approach, including cost-effective and implementable measures;
 - enhancing cooperation in addressing transboundary pollution;
 - sharing not only best available science and technology but also best practices, standards, policy instruments and tools;
 - In addition to the issues identified already by the President's letter, the Declaration should request UNEP to:
 - identify opportunities to address key sources of pollution within the full range of its Programme of Work and take the lead in addressing pollution by promoting a global pollution action agenda that will help achieve implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - keep pollution-related emerging issues under review in order to develop coherent policy responses at an early stage;

- Encourage Member States and relevant UN agencies, international fora, regional organisations and MEAs and their decision making/governing bodies to ensure mutual coherence and consistency of their activities and programs in addressing pollution and related problems whilst avoiding duplication.
- Pending the finalisation by UNEP of the Background document for the Pollution theme, we would like to see a placeholder for possible inclusion of the recommendations of this report in the outcome document, in particular those related to the transformative actions, enablers and targeted interventions.
- Again, we would like to thank the UNEA President for sharing his thoughts and we look forward to working with him and all other UN Member States towards a Ministerial Declaration that is acceptable to all and meaningful to the world.

5- Inputs from Mexico (received 24.05.2017)

Concerned by the negative impacts on biodiversity caused by the pollution of air, soil, inland water and oceans;

Recalling CBD decisions XIII/3, on mainstreaming biodiversity into different sectors and XIII/10, on impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise and coastal biodiversity as well as other related decisions in the framework of AGONU;

Welcoming the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well- Being;

Recognizing that activities from sectors such as agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, mining and processing industry among others, generate pollution of air, soil, inland waters and oceans;

Also recognizing that mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans implies that biodiversity must be considered part of the functioning of the productive sectors, which seek to reduce, avoid and mitigate negative impacts, including pollution, and generate positive effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to sustainable development and the provision of essential services for human well- being;

Bearing in mind that the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, civil society, private sector, and national and subnational governments is a *sine qua non* condition for mainstreaming biodiversity for well- being, and is a fundamental condition for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, including for a pollution-free planet;

We commit to:

Promote that sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programs as well as legal and administrative measures and budgets established by our Governments, integrate in a coherent manner, actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

Encourage closer cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization to prevent pollution from different economic sectors;

Take action to strengthen synergies with relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the Convention on Wetlands, among others;

Promote participation and involvement of relevant stakeholders, such as indigenous people and local communities, academia, civil society, private sector and national and subnational governments;

Support sustainable production and consumption value chains, the safe and sustainable application of technologies, the phasing-out of harmful incentives, and the strengthening of positive incentives;

To prevent agricultural pollution and the efficient, safe and sustainable use of agrochemicals, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs;

Promote tourism as a rewarding experience for visitors, while improving the appreciation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to prevent pollution;

Encourage the adaptation of practices for sustainable green and blue infrastructure, sustainable production and consumption, the conservation of landscapes and ecosystems, the use of land planning and the promotion of cultural values associated with biodiversity to prevent pollution;

6- Inputs from Norway (received 25.05.2017)

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.

7- Inputs from Peru (received 26.05.2017)

In a language that an everyday person can read and understand, we suggest to include the following contributions to the list of initial points that the President of the UN Environment Assembly has thought for possible inclusion in the Ministerial Outcome Document:

- Pollution affects every body. Its impact affects actual and future generations. It is a massive global challenge with consequences far beyond the environment. 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. Pollution is destroying our ecosystems, affecting human health, hampering long-term economic growth and exacerbating social inequalities.
- Pollution is an individual and collective concern the world over, threatening the health and well-being of all of us, whether we live in developed or developing countries. The moral dimension as the environmental ethics dimension requires each person and humanity to deal effectively with pollution issues. Urgent action is our responsibility.
- Reducing and eliminating pollution means positively transforming our world, leaving no one behind. It will help ensure that we, as humanity, make a generational leap towards a healthier, safer, brighter, more sustainable future. Our success will have multiple benefits:
 - More people will leave poverty behind; safer and cleaner technologies will drive our economies;
 - Peace, security and stability will help us consolidate inclusive societies, which respect human rights and gender empowerment;
 - We will protect the health of everyone on this planet, today and in the future.
- The UN Environment Programme, as the leading global environmental authority, and the UN Environment Assembly, our highest-level decision making body on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, are key institutions in keeping the state of the environment under review and in addressing the vital environmental challenges of global and regional significance, which we are facing today, such as pollution.
- We recognize that both, our UN Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme, cannot tackle the challenge of pollution alone and in this regard, we urge the other United Nations inter-governmental bodies, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and all other stakeholders, including business leaders, to contribute towards our effort.
- As the world's Ministers of Environment, we must be determined, therefore, to take the bold and necessary steps to address pollution at every level –global, regional, national and local- in order to protect 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.
- We invite all governments, businesses, communities and people, and all other stakeholders to make a pollution free planet a reality by 2030 and to support our call to action by determining their own contributions and commitments to achieve **our vision**:

- Transform our societies to become sustainable and able to support the needs of present and future generations, including through reduction of waste, increases reuse and recycling of materials, innovation, and improved transfer of and access to clean technologies;
 - Increase global, regional and national awareness and education around pollution sources, impacts, and solutions, in order to transform collective and individual mindsets, values and behaviours;
 - Work with the private sector to identify and implement market based solutions and alternatives to end all forms of pollution;
 - Promote diverse economic evaluations of pollution and the great impact it causes in economy and well-being; this data helps to underline the huge dimension of the challenge that must be overcome by people and mankind.
 - Face the urgent need to innovate and develop economic patterns that reward and enhance sustainable growth and non polluted environment.
 - Foster the solidarity solutions and initiatives of households and families to reduce and prevent pollution and contamination contributing thus to protect live. health and attaining better life quality standards;
 - Improve the health of the environment and ecosystems, and the health of people everywhere, including through stronger, integrated and coherent, policies and laws on air, land and water use and quality standards based on scientific evidence data;
 - Strengthen the implementations and enforcement of environmental laws and policies through capacity building and institutional strengthening, including monitoring systems;
 - Eliminate major sources of marine litter, such as microplastics and the excessive, wasteful usage of single-use plastic by the year 2022;
 - Accelerate efforts to achieve the sound management of chemical and wastes, including a global ban on lead in paint;
 - Reduce by half the amount of untreated wastewater entering water bodies;
 - Substantially improve air quality in cities to within healthy levels for human consumption;
 - Work with the local governments of the world towards promoting sustainable models of urban development that address, in an integrated manner, cleaner and liveable cities;
 - Expand the application and distribution of the best available science and technologies available towards combating the threat of pollution in all its forms;
 - Expand existing and create new multi-stakeholder partnerships, bringing together the Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and the people of the world in the implementation of this call to action. Enhance institutional innovations that promote public and private synergies to face global and local pollution challenges.
 - Encourage and promote the exchange of good practices, experiences and lessons learned on the matter among diverse institutions and societies.
 - Information regarding the diverse negative impacts of pollution (in live, health, equity, social welfare, poverty and other) must be constantly spread to all families, youth and society by social media. This will increase a consumer's demanding awareness of pollution factors.
- Our goal, collectively, must be a pollution free planet. We welcome the many pledges and commitments being made by Governments, business and civil society. These show that solutions to reduce and eliminate pollution are available and that moving onto a more sustainable path lies in our hands.

**changes made in purple are the changes made by Peru*

8- Inputs from Argentina (received 29.05.2017)

De mi mayor consideración:

Tengo el agrado dirigirme a Usted en su calidad de Presidente de la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y a su amable nota de fecha 8 de mayo del corriente año, relacionada con la próxima Reunión de la Asamblea en diciembre 2017, bajo el lema: “*Hacia un planeta libre de contaminación*”.

En la misma Ud. se refiere al proceso de elaboración de la declaración final, ofreciendo a las partes un compilado de elementos para la futura Declaración. Es un honor para nosotros participar del mismo y en ese sentido proponemos los aportes que se incluyen más abajo.

En este sentido, si bien su propuesta reviste un carácter general y se alinea con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y las conclusiones de la reunión de UNEA II, enunciarnos algunas cuestiones que remitimos a vuestra consideración:

Listado “*initial points*”:

-Punto 2 sobre “*Pollution is an individual and collective concern the world over, threatening the health and well-being of all of us, whether we live in developed or developing countries. Urgent action is our responsibility*”:

Entendemos conveniente mencionar en este apartado el Principio de Responsabilidades Comunes pero Diferenciadas.

-Punto 3, primer inciso que dispone “*More people will leave poverty behind; safer and cleaner technologies will drive our economies*”:

Recomendamos no solamente referirse a tecnologías seguras y limpias, sino también al manejo racional de los recursos naturales.

-Punto 5, “*We recognize that both, our UN Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme, cannot tackle the challenge of pollution alone and in this regard, we urge other United Nations inter-governmental bodies, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and all other stakeholders, including business leaders, to contribute towards our effort*”:

Creemos que este ítem no es lo suficientemente claro. Si se pretende plantear un paradigma reclamando la participación de todos los organismos internacionales, considérese que la actual redacción parece limitar la acción ambiental a las iniciativas del PNUMA y UNEA, diluyendo el rol central de los gobiernos.

-Punto 7 sobre “*We invite all Governments, businesses, communities and people, and all other stakeholders to make a pollution-free planet a reality by 2030 and to support our call to action by determining their own contributions and commitments to achieve our vision*”:

Proponemos pensar en una redacción diferente para el concepto de “un planeta libre de contaminación”, ya que este objetivo así planteado representa un compromiso difícilmente alcanzable y aún más para el año 2030.

-Punto 7, primer inciso “*Transform our societies to become sustainable and able to support the needs of present and future generations, including through reduction of waste, increased reuse and recycling of materials, innovation, and improved transfer of and Access to clean technologies*”:

Siguiendo el lineamiento del punto 3, se sugiere mencionar el manejo racional de los recursos naturales. Asimismo, se propone incluir la promoción de la eficiencia de los mismos mediante, entre otras medidas, un recambio tecnológico que permita producir bienes con menor demanda y que a su vez genere menos desechos a lo largo de su ciclo de vida.

En cuanto al aspecto de la *transformación de nuestra sociedad*, además de apostar a un cambio en las formas de producir, entendemos que el texto debería reflejar la importancia de también apuntar a un cambio de patrones de consumo.

Por otra parte estimamos debería haber una clara referencia a las energías renovables, al menos que las consideren incluidas en la terminología "clean technologies".

-Punto 7, tercer inciso "*Work with the private sector to identify and implement market based solutions and alternatives to end all forms of pollution*":

Se sugiere agregar el sector público.

-Punto 7, sexto inciso "*Eliminate major sources of marine litter, such as microplastics and the excessive, wasteful usage of single-use plastic by the year 2022*":

Consideramos que debiera eliminarse la referencia a una fecha específica ya que la determinación de la misma no ha sido sometida a negociación alguna entre los países hasta el momento.

-Punto 7: Se sugiere agregar al mismo un nuevo inciso:

"Fortalecer la implementación de los Acuerdos Multilaterales sobre químicos y gestión de residuos como las Convenciones de Basilea, Rotterdam y Estocolmo, y también el Convenio de Minamata sobre el Mercurio, que comparten la misma meta de proteger la salud y el ambiente de los efectos de dichas sustancias peligrosas".

-Punto 7: Se sugiere agregar al mismo un nuevo inciso:

Su redacción debiera apuntar a favorecer el Balance de Géneros en todos los sectores.

-Punto 7: Se sugiere agregar al mismo un nuevo inciso:

Su redacción debiera reflejar la idea que para lograr las metas antes mencionadas en las ciudades, es fundamental utilizar modelos de planificación urbana sustentable.

Por otra parte, queremos sugerir la inclusión de los contenidos siguientes, que consideramos relevantes:

-Principio 10: En armonía con lo acordado en el punto 27 de la Declaración de Cartagena (2016), consideramos que resulta indispensable promover la plena implementación del principio 10 de la Declaración de Río y se recomienda, por lo tanto, incorporar un texto que conlleve las siguientes consideraciones:

Todas las personas (físicas o jurídicas, privadas o públicas) deberán proveer información relativa a la calidad ambiental de la actividad que desarrollan, salvo que esté configurada legalmente como reservada.

Cada individuo deberá tener acceso apropiado a la información que posean las entidades públicas y, al mismo tiempo, la oportunidad de participar en los procesos de toma de decisiones.

Los Estados deberán facilitar y fomentar la sensibilización y la participación de la población poniendo la información a disposición de todos. En este sentido, el acceso a la información ambiental será libre y gratuito para toda persona que lo solicite y no será necesario acreditar razones ni interés determinado. También deberá proveerse el acceso efectivo a los procedimientos administrativos y judiciales a tal efecto.

Se promoverá la participación de las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil en asuntos relativos a problemáticas ambientales.

-Medios de Implementación: Consideramos de radical importancia la inclusión de referencias a medios de implementación adecuados para la creación de capacidades a los fines de alcanzar los contenidos debatidos en la UNEA.

-Cambio Climático: Si bien el cambio climático no pareciera estar directamente vinculado a la temática contaminación, ambos se relacionan en distintos aspectos. En muchos casos puede identificarse un origen común: el actual modelo energético basado en la quema de combustibles fósiles que, entre otros y por ejemplo, emite CO₂ y partículas finas. Luego, es indispensable recordar que los desastres y fenómenos climatológicos extremos tienen un efecto directo sobre la calidad del aire y en particular del agua. Por otra parte, la lucha contra la pobreza es un camino esencial para reducir la vulnerabilidad a estas dos problemáticas. Por todo ello, consideramos que es necesario que en la Declaración se reafirme la lucha contra el calentamiento global, las políticas de adaptación y mitigación como elementos esenciales para mejorar la situación ambiental del planeta y, en línea con el lema de UNEA III, facilitar la reducción de la contaminación.

9- Inputs from Singapore (received 01.06.2017)

Background

Pollution knows no boundary. Pollution originating from one area may affect the environment of other areas including across countries. A spill from an oil installation in one country may affect the marine environment of a neighbouring country. The industrial emission from economic activities in one country may pollute the air of neighbouring countries. The pollution of an international river in an upstream country may affect the water quality conditions of the river in downstream countries. The leaking of radioactive material from nuclear plants in one country may also raise environmental concerns to many regional countries.

When these happen, it is imperative that there is close cooperation and communication between the source and destination countries of the pollution. In this context, Singapore is of the view that in addition to addressing domestic sources of pollution, addressing transboundary forms of pollution should also be covered in the Ministerial Declaration at UNEA-3. Multilateral forums, such as UNEA, plays a pertinent role in helping to draw focus, strengthen cooperation, and in turn address pollution in its transboundary forms.

Input

We have drafted some points to be included in the Ministerial Outcome document:

- > Pollution does not stop at national borders. Pollution originating from one country may affect the environment of other countries.
- > Therefore, it is important to prevent, reduce, and control transboundary environment harm arising from activities within our territories. As responsible global citizens, it is our duty to cooperate, such as consulting each other, exchanging information, and working together, when there is a risk of significant transboundary pollution harm.
- > We therefore reiterate the importance and relevance of Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development - which emphasised that "*States have the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction*" - and for countries to uphold them.