

**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](mailto: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 world’s Ministers of Environment, we must be determined to take the bold and necessary steps to address pollution at every level 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;
- The UN Environment Programme is mandated to serve as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda. The UN Environment Assembly is the highest-level decision-making body on the environment. Both are key 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 strong cooperation and coordination among our UN Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme, other inter-governmental bodies, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and all other stakeholders, including civil society, are needed to tackle the challenge of pollution ;
- 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, must be 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, brighter, more sustainable future, with benefits for all;
- More people will be able to leave poverty behind;
- We will protect the health of everyone on this planet, today and in the future;
- Children will be prevented from being exposed to toxic chemicals and pollution, including those substances whose harms are not well understood;
- Women and men will participate equally in decision-making processes and implementation of policies and projects addressing chemical safety and pollution;

- Safer and cleaner technologies will drive our economies;
- We will transform our societies to become sustainable, resource efficient and able to support the needs of present and future generations;
- Peace, security and stability will help us promote inclusive societies, which respect human rights and gender equity and empowerment, as well as the environment;
- We will increase global, regional and national knowledge, awareness and education around pollution sources, impacts, and solutions.

#### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- Pollution affects everybody, with health disparities felt most acutely among certain vulnerable populations such as children, women, poor people, those in developing countries and countries in transition, Indigenous peoples, and workers. It is a massive global challenge with consequences far beyond the environment;
- The epidemic burden of disease and disability associated with hazardous chemicals and pollution harms the current generation and impacts the lives of generations to come;
- 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;
- 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 commit to take the following steps/actions;
- The solutions to reduce and eliminate pollution are available and moving onto a more sustainable path lies in our hands.

#### **Transformative Steps and Actions:**

- Promote zero waste and reduce all waste, through increased reuse and recycling of materials, innovation, and improved transfer of and access to clean techniques;
- Develop a clean, sustainable circular economy by banning the recycling of waste containing persistent organic pollutants and other hazardous chemicals to avoid their appearance in new products;
- Support local communities, their municipalities and not for profit sectors to implement Zero Waste City models;
- Adopt zero waste procurement practices including, non-toxic zero waste products, reusable shipping containers, reduced packaging, recycled and compost products, remanufactured equipment, and lease, rented, or shared equipment;
- Promote non-combustion technologies for waste management to prevent the generation and emission of hazardous chemicals formed in waste incineration;
- Ensure that outdated and polluting technologies are not dumped in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- Work with the private sector to further implement the polluter pays principle and identify and implement market based solutions and safer alternatives to end all forms of pollution;

- Improve the health of the environment and ecosystems, and the health of people everywhere, including through stronger, integrated, and coherent precautionary policies and laws to reduce pollution, including standards for hazardous chemicals and other pollutants in air, land, water and food quality based on scientific evidence and data;
- Take into account the differing physiologies of males and females when designing pollution and chemical safety policies, and collect gender disaggregated data.
- Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies through capacity building and institutional strengthening, including monitoring systems and public involvement;
- Eliminate major sources of marine litter, in particular packaging, microbeads and microplastics and the excessive, wasteful usage of single-use plastic by 2023, encourage regulatory control and community support;
- Accelerate efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including eliminating lead in paint by 2022;
- Disclose all intentionally added chemicals in a product (along with impurities that are chemicals of concern) and their hazards;
- Reduce, by half, the amount of untreated wastewater entering water bodies by 2025;
- Reduce and eliminate dependency on pesticides through agroecology techniques that include community-based innovations and traditional people's knowledge;
- Substantially improve air quality in cities to within healthy levels for human consumption by 2025;
- Work with the local governments and communities towards promoting sustainable models of urban development that address, in an integrated manner, cleaner and livable cities;
- Significantly expand the application and distribution in all countries of the best available science and techniques towards combating the threat of pollution in all its forms;
- Expand existing and create new transparent, inclusive partnerships that respect the right to information, to health and healthy environments, social, political and civil rights, and the rights of women, children and workers, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and the people of the world.