

Ministerial declaration of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”

*Sources for the preliminary draft of the ministerial outcome document
released on 21 September 2017*

Paragraph 2

As the representatives of all countries, we believe that, regardless of age, gender or culture, faith or wealth, no one should die from dirty water or poor hygiene. Yet, nearly 2,000 children below the age of five will do just that every day.

- UNICEF Press Release, March 2013. Available at: https://www.unicef.org/media/media_68359.html
- Liu L, Johnson HL, Cousens S, Perin J, Scott S, Lawn JE, Rudan I, Campbell H, Cibulskis R, Li M, Mathers C, Black RE; Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group of WHO and UNICEF. [Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality: an updated systematic analysis for 2010 with time trends since 2000](#). Lancet. 2012 Jun 9;379(9832):2151-61.

No one should choke because they walk down a street or cook a hot meal in their home. Yet every day, 9 out of 10 of us will continue to breathe air that is unsafe and 20,000 people will die because of it.

- World Health Organization (WHO) – WHO releases country estimates on air pollution exposure and health impact. September 2017 Available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/air-pollution-estimates/en/>.

No community should be contaminated by hazardous chemicals and waste. Yet of the thousands of chemicals on the market, only a fraction is properly tested, labelled or tracked.

- The International Council of Chemicals Association states that based on REACH registration data and data from the USEPA, the number of chemicals in commerce is around 20-30,000 and data for those is available (e.g. on the European Chemicals Agency Website). The number of chemicals that remain on registries is a fraction of the number of chemicals that remain in registries because they were produced at one point in the past but are not produced today.

No coastal community should struggle to secure adequate dietary protein from already fragile coastal fisheries. No ecosystem should be so damaged by consumer choices that it ceases to function properly. Yet every year, we dump up to 13 million tonnes of plastic in our oceans

- Jambeck J R, Geyer R, Wilcox C, Siegler T R, Perryman M, Andrady A, Narayan R and Lavender Law K 2015 Marine pollution. plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean *Science* **347** 768–71
- New Scientist: Oceans swallowed 13 million tonnes of plastic in 2010, 12 February 2015. Available at <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn26958-oceans-swallowed-13-million-tonnes-of-plastic-in-2010/>

and 50 million tonnes of electronic waste on our land.

- Baldé, C.P., Wang, F., Kuehr, R., Huisman, J. (2015), The global e-waste monitor – 2014, United Nations University, IAS – SCYCLE, Bonn, Germany.

Paragraph 6

We must recapture and reinvest the 300 tonnes of gold buried in electronic waste every year;

- Baldé, C.P., Wang, F., Kuehr, R., Huisman, J. (2015), The global e-waste monitor – 2014, United Nations University, IAS – SCYCLE, Bonn, Germany.

the billions of dollars in plastic packaging being thrown away;

- The report “Valuing Plastics: The Business Case for Measuring, Managing and Disclosing Plastic Use in the Consumer Goods Industry. 2014, United Nations Environment Programme” states that, “the total natural capital cost of plastic used in the consumer goods industry is over \$75bn per year.”

the immense economic loss from exposing children to lead in paint;

- Attina TM, Trasande L (2013) Economic costs of childhood lead exposure in low- and middle-income countries, Environmental Health Perspectives 121: 1097-1102
<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1206424/>

the US\$8.7 billion annual cost of intelligence quotient loss from exposure to by-products emissions of mercury,

- Trasande L, Landrigan PJ, Schechter C. Public health and economic consequences of methyl mercury toxicity to the developing brain. Environ Health Perspect. 2005;113:590–596. [[PMC free article](#)][[PubMed](#)]

and the US\$5 trillion spent on healthcare because of air pollution.

- World Bank; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. 2016. The Cost of Air Pollution: Strengthening the Economic Case for Action. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25013> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.