

## **Business and Industry Major Group Closing Plenary Statement**

*Delivered on 6 December 2017*

Business would like to congratulate Member States and UN Environment for the clear, action- and solutions- oriented approach to reduce pollution and its risks to people, planet, and prosperity. We are grateful for the challenging and encouraging words from many of you and the UN system, urging us to do more and find new solutions. As the Executive Director of UN Environment, Mr. Erik Solheim has said: ‘You cannot change the world without including business.’

Over the course of UNEA3, more than 60 business representatives, including many from our group, the Global Business Alliance for the Environment, have convened here in Nairobi to ensure the reflection of business solutions, concerns, and expertise in UNEA3. We have also hosted a Business Symposium, under the theme “Businesses #BeatPollution” to exhibit the growing recognition of business’ role and responsibility to help create enabling environments to tackle pollution within the context of sustainable development.

The Business and Industry Major Group has come together under this banner of the GBA4E to reiterate our commitment to help achieve the SDGs and move towards a pollution-free planet. We look forward to continuing to work with UN Environment, governments and others to seek and support new models of business and commercial activity that are cleaner and less polluting, more responsible, and always people-centered.

Though, to reach our collective goal here, of a pollution free planet, we need to work closer with you, the governments; so, we call on you to call on us, at the national and local level, as you have done by inviting us into this distinguished Assembly. A key enabler for business to contribute to environmental sustainability is the establishment of and support to clear and flexible regulatory and voluntary policy frameworks by governments. We need tailored and specific responses to each source of pollution, reflecting realistic economic and social circumstances.

Our message here is that innovation is not only for technology, but also for forums of discussion, partnerships, policy design, and assessments. Addressing pollution requires sound regulation with enforcement and institutional capacity building, market-oriented approaches, voluntary efforts, and the removal of counter-productive discussion and subsidies. Business emphasizes the importance of building national capacity and infrastructure to address pollution, however, active, substantive, and recognized engagement of all observer groups, including business, is needed to inform, raise the ambition of, and implement, the outcomes of UNEA and UN Environment initiatives.

The question now is where do we go from here? We encourage UN Environment to continue the Science-Policy-Business Forum, and we hope to organize future Business Symposia in tandem with this initiative. Until the next UNEA, we look forward to continuing dialogue, cooperative action and partnership with governments, stakeholders and UN Environment, as we move toward a pollution-free planet.