Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

"Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production"

Vision: Sustainable, prosperous and inclusive societies that address key environmental challenges with innovative solutions and rely on responsible patterns of consumption and production

As ministers of the environment of the world, we recognise that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting responsible patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

We acknowledge that the availability of transparent, reliable, comparable and accessible environmental data is vital for decision making.

We highlight the importance of creating synergies between sustainable and efficient uses of resources, maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems, and climate change adaptation and mitigation in achieving sustainable development goals.

We stress that cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels, developing partnerships and sharing the best practices are key in the development of inclusive sustainable solutions that leave no one behind.

We take into strong consideration the outcomes of the 6th Global Environment Outlook, the Global Resource Outlook and the Global Chemicals Outlook to support science-based decision making.

We recall the outcomes of the UN Environment Assemblies and stress that applying and scaling up innovative solutions for environmental challenges and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production are key pillars in our endeavor to move towards a sustainable planet and we commit to fulfil the following priorities:

Main priority 1: Ensure the access and use of global environmental data and develop innovative digital solutions.

a) We commit to develop by 2021 a global environmental data strategy and action plan, under the auspices of relevant UN bodies, and establish an international high level multi-sectoral task force in this regard within the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment.

b) We strengthen existing and establish new comprehensive long-term and real-time environmental monitoring systems, including air and water quality, sand and dust storms, deforestation, marine litter ensure an open access to monitoring data.

> **Sri Lanka's comment 1**: Insert the word 'microplastics' in the paragraphs (b) and (d) under Main Priority 1 as below.
>
> b) We strengthen existing and establish new comprehensive long-term and real-time environmental monitoring systems, including air and water quality, sand and dust storms, deforestation, marine litter and microplastics ensure an open access to monitoring data.

> d) We foster the improvement of scenario-building models to develop environment foresights, including food security, marine litter and microplastics, desertification and extreme weather events.

c) We improve the integrated analysis of environmental data from traditional and new sources, including remote sensing, citizen science, and increase the use of artificial intelligence and big data analysis, in cooperation with the science community and private sector and maintaining the principles of ethics, governance, equity, transparency and security.

d) We foster the improvement of scenario-building models to develop environment foresights, including food security, marine litter, desertification and extreme weather events.

e) We empower the disclosure of consumer information, starting with textile and plastic products by 2025, and we develop solutions for product transparency, including labelling systems and digital product resource passports, product environment footprint, and life-cycle models.

f) We invest in national environmental data management, and we invite the Executive Director to establish a dedicated programme for building the global environmental data management capacity.

> **Sri Lanka's comment 2**: Change the wording of the paragraph (f) under Main Priority 1 as below.
>
> We initiate action to establish national environmental data management system, and we invite the Executive Director to establish a dedicated programme for building the global environmental data management capacity.

Main priority 2: Foster sustainable and efficient resource management to decarbonize, detoxify, decouple and enhance ecosystem resilience.

a) We improve national resource management strategies with an integrated life-cycle perspective to achieve a resource-efficient and circular economy, which significantly contributes to the achievement of sustainable consumption and production.

b) We commit to align with One Planet Network and invite the Executive Director to strengthen Member States' capacity in developing policies on sustainable consumption and production.

c) We implement sustainable land management measures, including afforestation, wetland restoration and mining area recultivation, to combat desertification, deforestation and biodiversity loss and to improve climate change mitigation.

> **Sri Lanka's comment 3**: Insert the word 'reforestation' in the paragraph (c) under Main Priority 2 as below as wetland restoration and mining area recultivation do not include all types of reforestation activities.
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> We implement sustainable land management measures, including afforestation, reforestation, wetland restoration and mining area recultivation, to combat desertification, deforestation and biodiversity loss and to improve climate change mitigation.

d) We target the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices to support sustainable food production through improved value generation and to ensure food

safety and security.

e) We agree to define priority actions in order to guide the tourism sector towards enhanced sustainability to avoid the loss of biodiversity and preserve ecosystems, while supporting sustainable livelihoods.

f) We foster the investments in innovative solutions for enabling access to clean energy and green infrastructure and expand the use of sustainable transportation, including electro-mobility.

g) We develop and implement national sound waste prevention and management policies in line with waste hierarchy, with special focus on food, plastics and marine litter.

h) We agree to reuse and recycle at least [X]% of all waste generated by 2025.

i) We develop a global approach and concert our efforts for long-term funding for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, as an essential requirement for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda goals, to be considered at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly.

j) We develop strategies to phase out single-use plastics, starting with plastic bags, straws, plates, cups and cutlery by 2025, and encourage the private sector to find affordable and eco-friendly alternatives. We introduce economic incentives to upscale or recycle plastic bottles.

k) We invite the relevant UN bodies to develop the global product sustainability and circularity criteria by 2021 to stimulate the market for sustainable products and secondary raw materials.

l) We agree to achieve that at least [X]% of total procurements will be sustainable public procurements by 2025, and if the current proportion exceeds already [X]%, to further increase it, ensuring the demand for sustainable products and services.

m) We enforce producer responsibility incentives towards sustainable production and we commit to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies.

n) We activate and accelerate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities, build innovative partnerships and ensure transparent funding for eco-innovative solutions.

Main priority 3: Support robust engagement of civil society, citizens, private sector and academia in promoting innovative approaches for meeting global environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.

a) We ensure for our citizens an access to environmental education and promote wider uptake of innovative approaches, such as inclusive citizen science and social innovation programmes.

b) We are dedicated to the integration of responsible consumption and production policies into curricula and to raise awareness in society, including on food waste prevention.

> **Sri Lanka's comment 4**: Insert the word 'from the primary education' in the paragraph (b) under Main Priority 3 as below.
>
> We are dedicated to the integration of responsible consumption and production policies into curricula from the primary education and to raise awareness in society, including on food waste prevention.

a) We engage citizens in improving their-- local environment by implementing nature based solutions.

b) We stand for adequate resource allocations to research and development to drive innovation for the environment.

c) We support the creation of new, innovative business opportunities and promote the wider application of indigenous traditional knowledge about environmentally friendly practices for more sustainable economies, with improvement in poverty eradication.
d) We ensure the meaningful participation of civil society in the policy-making process.
e) We invite organisations from private, public and civil society sectors to implement Corporate Social Responsibility policies

We invite the Executive Director to support the implementation of these commitments, as appropriate, and to provide a progress report on implementation of this Declaration at the seventh session of the UN Environment Assembly in 2025.

We endorse the adoption of the Implementation Plan on Pollution in consistency with the outcomes of the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.