

Department of Environment Islamic Republic of Iran Date: 12th May 2020

1- What would you, as government/organization/stakeholder, welcome as the most important elements and/or key messages from the ministers in the declaration to address the theme in an impactful manner?

We believe that nature-based solutions (NBSs) help to solve environmental challenges while these solutions are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social, and economic benefits, and build resilience. Since the NBSs are a fundamental part of an action for climate and biodiversity, they need to scale-up response efforts. Adequate investment in NBSs reduces the financial consequences and contributes to the creation of new jobs, livelihood resilience and to poverty eradication that should mainstream within national policies and enhance through regional and international cooperation.

2- How can the Environment Assembly make a significant contribution to Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at a global scale? In doing so, you may take into account the preparation for the meeting, its conduct and follow-up, as well as its relationship to other meetings and processes.

It seems that the UN General Assembly has been able to change and extend its path from letter to action. The establishment of working groups for following up and implementation of the UNEA resolutions is a worthy step. For addressing more on environmental challenges, we expect the UNEA to avoid many, diffused, and fruitless issues and concentrate more on the challenges of different geographical areas. We also expect the UNEA to conduct the negotiation process based on transparency, regardless of any political stance.

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