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Input from ProVeg International:

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?

As a member based NGO, advocating for a shift towards more plant based diets and food systems, we would welcome clear and bold language in the declaration. As the current Covid-19 crisis is reminding us of the need for concrete, holistic and transformational actions, we encourage the UN Environment community and the Ministers to acknowledge the urgent necessity to promote less resource intensive diets, particularly in the Global North.

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.

We are glad to see that “food systems” will play a key role during the coming UN Environment Assembly as part of the fourth pillar (“Action Area 4: Nature for Sustainable Food Systems”). Plant rich diets and sustainable agriculture practices should also be considered as part of “Action area 2: Nature for health” as well as of “Action area 3: Nature for Climate”.

Promoting less resource intensive and more plant based diets is crucial as the year 2021 will feature the major “UN Food Systems Summit” during the summer. A strong, clear and open endorsement of a reduction of the production and consumption of animal products, in line with the recommendations made by experts would be an important part of achieving following SDG’s:

SDG 2 (Plant based proteins require less resources)

SDG 3 (NCDs are becoming a major health challenge in many regions)

SDG 12 (Current dietary patterns as witnessed in the Global North are not sustainable)

SDG 13 (Animal agriculture is contributing to more than 15% of global GHG Emissions)

SDG 14 (Unsustainable fishing is one of the main cause of ocean pollution / biodiversity loss)

SDG 15 (Livestock and feedstuff required are one of the leading cause of deforestation and biodiversity loss)

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