Attached is the input from the WHALE Center, re: the declaration from Environment Ministers that you requested.

In response to your first question:

-**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?**

The theme " Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" from our perspective requires more serious attention to both the ecological footprint of the nations of the world and the adherence to the limits suggested by the science of the 9 planetary boundaries.

We suggest that the declaration call upon nations to reduce their ecological footprint to sustainable levels and to set targets that are guided by the science of the 9 planetary boundaries.  This will address the links between biodiversity, climate change, pollution and more.

The declaration might cite examples of best practices that are currently doing this around the world.

Please find an example of one of the best practices that we have developed to accomplish this which provides a blue print for green recovery through a proven and tested model.

Blue Community One Planet Living Model for Sustainable Cities

The Blue Community One Planet Living program was designed to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs for cities.  The program is particularly applicable for cities with strong tourism sectors and has an emphasis on protecting, enhancing, and restoring coastal habitat and marine environments.

The program was developed by the UCC WHALE Center B[lue Community program](#) and Bioregional. Both contributed to the Villages Nature Resort, recipient of the [World Hospitality Award](#) for sustainable development and social responsibility, recognized as one one the most sustainable resorts in the world, and [a game changer for sustainable tourism](#).

The integration of the two programs was piloted in hotels, restaurants, and attractions in the communities of New Smyrna Beach, and Anna Maria Island and now being implemented on a community wide basis in six cities in Florida including Orlando the largest tourism destination in North America with over 80 million visitors a year..

The program and process has been field tested internationally in North America, Europe and Africa.  The program includes the integration of several features to accelerate the implementation of the SDG's including but not limited to:

- An online community assessment tool to develop baseline data using the SDG framework, [One Planet Living principles](#), [Blue Community strategies](#), Global Sustainable Tourism Council framework, and the science of the 9 planetary boundaries.

- A training program that has been field tested successfully in different countries.
- A software platform for cities to develop their own customized sustainability plans using the framework of the 17 SDG's, a feature to involve multi stakeholders in the process, and publish the plan for transparency.  See Blue Community plan.
- A software feature to allow for the development of sustainability plans of businesses, NGO's, and other community organizations with a link to the overall city plan to track collective data.
- Integrates One Planet Living Framework, used in the most sustainable tourism resort in the world
- Utilizes the 12 Blue Community strategies co-developed with the Walt Disney Company and proven cost-effective
- Online format that utilizes block chain technology for easy reporting
- PM4SD Training (Project Management 4 Sustainable Development
- An Olympic Award winning  leadership development program developed in cooperation with UNEP
- A took kit including several resources such as case studies, videos of best practices, and more.
- Evaluation tools to measure performance, programmatic, and cultural change data.

In response to the second question in your lettter

- 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.

One of the strategies the Enviornment Assembly might consider is to model sustainability for the meeting and process itself.

In this regard we can provide an online platform where goals, actions, and indicators can be developed for the meeting and the further implementation of the declaration using the 17 SDGs as the framework.

Having a Sustainability plan to accompany the declaration will make it more real for people and our software allows other nations, civil society stakeholder groups, and other relevant groups to link their plans to this declaration as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this process.