

Input from India Water Foundation to the ministerial declaration of UNEA-5.

- **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?**

Strengthening actions for nature to achieve sustainable development goals is a commitment to work with nature and re-nurturing human civilization. The recent COVID-19 pandemic is a sign of climate change. SDG 13 is a reflection of broad trend of environment-based disasters risking human population. Like COVID-19 crisis, climate change, biodiversity loss, human-related disasters do not observe national or physical borders. It would be a welcome move if the ministerial declaration acknowledges the stringent implementation of trinity of 'Super Year for Nature 2020, Last Decade for SDGs 2030 realization, Paris Agreement on Climate Change'. Nature based solutions (NbS) cannot be one size fit all solution and must be customized according to country/sector/actor/geographic terrain, etc to name a few. The declaration that is anchored in NbS can be symbiotically clubbed with science based solutions (SbS) geared towards resilience, shared prosperity and well being. The key element where attention needs to be drawn is the inclusion of gendered approach of NbS alongside men to protect the natural assets of Mother Nature. Further, there needs to be much more transparency about the nature of partnerships that governments are forging with civil societies to come up with (NbS) since they are the connecting bridge between communities and the governments, especially at grass root level. Here, the upcoming declaration can serve as a potential tool to communicate definite ways to propagate NbS towards green global future ushering in protecting nature and livelihoods in parallel.

- **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**

Building on the momentum to implement the Super Year for Nature 2020 and Sustainable Development Goals 2030 realization, UNEA can collaborate process of imbibing NbS by pronouncing elaborate standards for design, scientific verification for various stakeholders'. Prior to the launch of UNEA ministerial declaration, UNEA can undergo series of consultations (first, second and so on) and survey of feedback to understand and review consultation opinions. Focus attention to core principles of NbS coupled with SbS to implement, upscale and replicate across countries and regions bringing the much needed attention to nature's untapped role in adaptation and mitigation measures. Meetings can be conducted through concerted action of specialized groups, empowered committee on NBS, task forces/councils, Inter-sectoral/cross cutting partnership which shall appear a welcome move to accelerate opinions and foundational strategies towards nature related climate action. Strong recommendation for thematic groups on NbS like Eco-system based adaptation, water-food-energy nexus, ecosystem governance, Eco-disaster risk reduction, cultural-traditional practices, nature based adaptation & mitigation management, etc to provide specialized, distinct and unique answers to the pressing environmental challenges of the 21st century. NbS coalition can be led by UNEA involving governments, private organizations, civil societies, academia, international agencies, institutions to frame a consensus on the ministerial declaration to unlock full potential for nature based climate change and unprecedented opportunity to frame a new blue-print for nature. Frame Young Champions Network to applaud and acknowledge their spheres of achievement and recognition by UNEA for their sustainable products and services to nature.