



**Note No.056/2020**  
**Reference: 18/1/3**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations Environment Programme presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary of Governing Bodies for UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and has the honour to transmit the attached comments of South Africa in response to a letter dated 24 April 2020 from the President of the UN Environment Assembly regarding the Ministerial Declaration.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations Environment Programme avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Secretary of Governing Bodies for UN Environment Programme (UNEP) the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the Secretary of Governing Bodies for UN Environment Programme (UNEP)  
NAIROBI



## **South Africa's comments to the Ministerial Declaration**

Please find South Africa's comments on the questions raised by the President of UNEA are as follows:

- Ministers should emphasise their commitments in addressing environmental challenges as an equally important component as the other two components of the Sustainable Development Agenda, namely economic and social and commit to developing and implementing plans, guidelines and policies to address these challenges and the UNEA theme; taking into account national circumstances.
- Ministers should commit in working towards the attainment by all countries of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular by doing so based on continuous multi-stakeholder engagements to ensure that no one is left behind. Further commit in providing predictable, additional and adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, to developing countries.
- The UNEA-5 resolutions should complement resolutions and decisions of the various multilateral environmental fora such as UNCCD, UNCBD, UNFCCC among others with the aim of addressing the theme for UNEA5 "*Strengthening actions for the protection and sustainable use of the natural environment to achieve SDGs*". The theme for UNEA5 should also be shared with the Bureaus of these other MEAs for their consideration in preparation for upcoming meetings respectively. In this regard, the Ministerial outcome declaration should highlight the main outcomes of the resolutions with an emphasis on measurable progress indicators.
- The Environment Assembly should ensure that there are actions taken post-UNEA5 to implement resolutions adopted by Member States, including focussed follow-up mechanisms and performance targets. In line with resolution on implementation of all UNEA resolutions as adopted at UNEA4.
- The South African delegation wishes to highlight the issue of poverty as per the recent predictions by the international community indicating that over 30 million of people in Africa will face extreme poverty as a result of COVID19. This grave and serious prediction touches on the imperative need for the realisation of SDG1.