

Embassy of the Kingdom  
of Morocco  
Nairobi



سجادة المملكة المغربية  
نيروبي

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The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Nairobi presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and referring to letter of the President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, requesting initial ideas and inputs to specified questions on the ministerial declaration of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, this mission has the honor to forward herewith some initial ideas and propositions that the kingdom of Morocco wishes to see included in the UNEA 5 Ministerial declaration.

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Nairobi avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), its highest consideration.



Nairobi, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Nairobi

Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco P.O. Box 617-00621 Nairobi, Kenya.  
Tel: +254-20-7120765/7120795 Fax: +254-20-7120817. Email: [sifmanbi@ymail.com](mailto:sifmanbi@ymail.com)



### Morocco's initial ideas and propositions for the UNEA 5 Ministerial declaration

- 1- Morocco aligns itself with the common position of the African Group in Nairobi in its totality.
- 2- The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco thinks that the Political Declaration should constitute, in this current context of the COVID19 Pandemic, a strong political signal to:
  - Recognize the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic;
  - Renew the commitment of the international community to a healthy planet (healthy environment, healthy population);
  - Provide concrete and innovative guidelines for adopting nature-based solutions by highlighting the desire to further strengthen mutualization and synergy between economic prosperity and the protection of nature for sustainable development and;
  - Consider, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of UNEP, its primary and relevant role in global environmental governance, notably through the UNEA.



3- Morocco hopes as well that the Declaration will also be able to reaffirm the commitments and provide guidance with regard to "the degradation of ecosystems, in particular marine and aquatic". Indeed, the degradation of ecosystems (oceans, seas, rivers, etc.) constitutes a major environmental challenge for all of the continents, mainly Africa, and this in view of the continued loss of the richness of the biodiversity that aquatic ecosystems harbor, and their highly valued ecosystem values in terms of providing services that require sustainable use.

4- Recognizing aquatic ecosystems at the level of the UNEA 5 Political Declaration, could contribute in particular to the acceleration of the implementation of the decisions already existent within the framework of the UNEA on the matter (ex: the decision on plastic waste and support UNEP efforts to achieve it from SDG14).

5- For Morocco, which is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea shore of 3500 Km, aquatic ecosystems play a key role in its sustainable development. Integrating this issue at the level of the Declaration would be an opportunity to bring to light during the UNEA5 opportunities for funding, technical assistance or a new partnership in this area and could be used to support the dynamic experienced by our country in the area of protection of ecosystems, in particular the marine ecosystem.

