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The Permanent Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in Nairobi presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Secretariat and, with reference to its Note Verbale N°79, dated May 12th, 2020, related to Algeria's initial ideas and inputs to specified questions on the Ministerial Declaration of the 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), has the honor to forward, herewith, an additional contribution on the matter.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in Nairobi avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration. 

June 17th, 2020

United Nations Environment Programme
Secretariat
Nairobi

**Algeria's additional inputs to specified questions
on the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-5**

Regarding the most important elements and/or key messages in the Declaration meant to address the theme in an impactful manner, here are some additional comments on the matter:

- 1- In the context of the general degradation of the environment all over the world, no one can deny that the **changes** which affect nowadays the environment are the **result** of the **industrial era**, ongoing for more than two (02) centuries.

For one part, this crisis entails the **responsibility of industrialized countries** that had, for a long time, had the possibility to enjoy the world's resources (natural and others), which allowed them to reach the current **high levels of social and economic development**.

Hence, it is advisable to give due consideration to the **consequences** of the crisis resulting from the **Anthropocene era**, which are, for the least, **disastrous to the environment, the climate and biodiversity**.

To address such issues, there is an urgent need to:

- a) Strengthen existing **synergies between the legal and institutional frameworks** that deal with environmental matters, notably set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UCBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCDD). To all these instruments, can be added the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention of 16 November 1972 related to the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- b) Favor a **holistic approach** which would encompass, beyond the three (03) aspects UNEA-5 should carry out (environment, climate and biodiversity), the principle of **interrelatedness of "culture-nature"**, given that climate change and biodiversity loss affect not only ecological balance, but also the **world's natural "heritage"**.
- c) Support **conservation measures**, including efficient conservation measures that bring about **innovative solutions** to put into harmony people with their natural environment.
- d) Bring together efforts to **improve technical skills**, develop multidisciplinary and cross-cutting scientific research and promote know-how and traditional knowledge.

- e) Promote **knowledge sharing of best practices**, especially in terms of implementing **nature-based solutions**. This calls naturally to a combination of efforts of all key stakeholders, including non-state actors (civil society, productive sector, etc...).
- f) Promote and support **regional solutions** based on the principle of **ecological interconnection of territories** as a prerequisite for preserving biodiversity at a global level.
- g) Support of strict measures for **conservation of fragile environments** (Saharan ecosystems, oases environments, steppe-like habitats, wetlands, etc...).
- h) Develop **regional monitoring and assessment mechanisms** related to ecosystems, natural habitats and endangered fauna and flora species. This would allow, for instance, an inversion in the decline of the large fauna in North Africa and Sahel regions.
- i) Provide **adequate conservation of geological heritage**, of geodiversity and associated ecosystem services.

2- Concerning the link to be drawn with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), below are some key elements to ponder upon for potential inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration:

- a) Support the premise of the **interrelatedness of “culture-nature”**, by providing a basis for governing territorial planning and managing.
- b) Promotion of a harmonized implementation of SDGs and support for the **development of indicators adaptable to national contexts**.
- c) Strengthening **international** efforts, including those forming part of **South-South and sub-regional cooperation**.
- d) Support of cooperation between **cross-border protected areas**, which should be based on a **sub-regional cooperation** in terms of **biodiversity management**.
- e) Support the implementation of national projects of cooperation and encouragement of approaches aiming at creating **technical and multidisciplinary national structures**.
- f) Fostering of ownership by relevant stakeholders involved in biodiversity when it comes to challenges linked to the preservation of nature, thus by strengthening the **means of knowledge building**, as well as **data structuring, pooling and mining**, including those related to **natural and cultural heritage**.

- g) Development of tools for territorial governance that enhance collegial implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and plans of conservation and control/response. This should inevitably be brought out through **acknowledgement and support of the role of local populations in the management of natural resources**, which, in turn, should be underpinned by proceedings of documentation and **recognition of the value of traditional knowledge and know-how in the field of ecology.****
 - h) Necessity for local actors to be allowed the required political space regarding planning of actions related to preservation of the environment, fight against climate change and conservation of biodiversity.**
- 3- As for the issue of financial support for developing countries, in terms of actions that need to be addressed by UNEA-5 and reflected in the Ministerial Declaration, it should be predictable, adequate and be subject to periodic reporting.**
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