

Inputs from New Zealand

New Zealand will welcome a text that underscores the need to ensure a green recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic. The draft outline document provides a strong basis to inform the Ministerial outcome document. Our comments by section are provided below.

Focus, Vision and Introduction

Incorporating a resilient and sustainable rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic is positioned appropriately within the vision. The introduction provides a useful narrative in linking the interconnectivity between human and ecosystem health. We agree with the emphasis on a strong multilateral system and international partnerships as a mechanism to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. New Zealand has adopted a well-being approach to measuring national progress and welcomes the language on placing people and nature at the heart of decision-making.

Green Recovery

New Zealand welcomes the statement that now is the time to build back better. We suggest that stronger language can be used in reference to the role Ministers play; there is an opportunity to consider pressing actions and solutions for nature in their response to the pandemic. It's important that Ministers have a range of tools at their disposal to help economies build back better. However the sentence under the "green economy" section starting "*Ministers can promote regulations, incentives, financial instruments that respond to the COVID-19 situation ...*" needs balance to emphasise the importance of using tools in a transparent and targeted way that is consistent with trade rules. The joint statement on open markets, flow of essential goods and supply chain connectivity, issued on 20 May at UNHQ, and sponsored by 175 countries, includes language that could be adapted into the draft outline document (i.e. "*We emphasize that emergency measures designed to tackle COVID -19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains, and are consistent with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules*").

Healthy ecosystems, healthy people - Holistic approaches to protect and restore nature and ecosystem services – including nature-based solutions

It is welcome to see language on considering ways to support the work of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. We would like clarity on what the "2020 instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste" refers to.

Sustainable food systems – a part of the solution

Specific amendments to the wording of this section are provided below to align the language more closely with the UN Food Systems Summit "tracks" language, and SDG2 on Ending Hunger:

Meeting the world's increasing demand for food while still reducing agriculture's environmental impacts is one of the defining challenges of our time, as stated in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 2019 Global Assessment Report. Addressing ~~solutions~~ **challenges** to the food system is an important opportunity for ministers at the environment assembly, as well as for the private sector, farmers and other stakeholders. Among the findings of the IPBES report is that feeding humanity and enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of nature are complementary and closely interdependent goals. They can be advanced through sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and livestock systems, the safeguarding of native species, varieties, breeds and habitats, and ecological restoration. The ministerial declaration can contribute to the growing understanding ~~and attention to~~ **of** the environmental dimension of sustainable food systems, including how improvements in the different parts of the food systems are important for ~~both~~ people's livelihood, **culture** and health, the environment and the economy, and its significance ~~to be able to provide a healthy and affordable diet to the global population~~ **for ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all** in decades to come. This is critical to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Ministers can highlight important approaches and solutions that are available, and contribute to further measures to strengthen action at the UN Food **Systems** Summit in 2021.

We look forward to reviewing the revised draft as we draw closer to UNEA-5.