



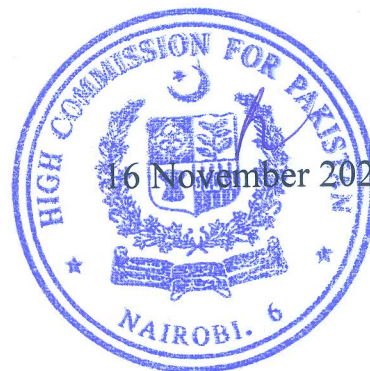
HIGH COMMISSION FOR PAKISTAN NAIROBI

No. UNEP-3/2020

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi and with reference to latter's e-mail dated 22 September 2020 regarding virtual open-ended consultations on the zero draft of Ministerial Declaration for UNEA-5 has the honour to convey comments of the Government of Pakistan.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the UNEP Secretariat, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enal: a/a.



Secretariat of the
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Nairobi
Attention: Secretary of Governing Bodies

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Subject: Draft outline document for the Ministerial Declaration of the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5): Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan Views / Comments

1. What would you, as govt./org./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?

Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan appreciates invitation of input to the theme and UNEA-5 declaration. Pakistan remains fully committed to be part of implementation process of the resolutions and decisions to be made during UNEA-5. The proposed elements for the declaration from Pakistan are:

- Pakistan believes that the COVID pandemic besides greatly bringing the question of the lack of capacity and readiness in healthcare systems to cope with a pandemic outbreak, but alongside, this also highlighted the need for reducing pollution and mitigating to climate change. While highlighting the scale of emergency and a need to a holistic response, it also indicates about the scale of the challenge ahead and need for a more environmentally sound response to longer term emergency planning. Pakistan believes that ‘Climatically resilient’ & ‘Environmentally sustainable’ post COVID-19 Recovery is needed with more priority focus in long term conservation goals.
- The current available scientific evidence in the case of COVID-19 indicates that increased ‘human- nature conflict’ has far reaching implications beyond environmental deterioration. It gives us a new dimension to conservation as in the future, the health security systems would require designing to reduce the negative impacts of human intervention on nature. Cohesion, such as between health law and conservation law, must be put in place in long-term conservation efforts. Both international and domestic laws must recognize the interdependency between humans and all aspects of the natural environment.
- Pakistan believes that ecological health is essential to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, as they provide the basis for life through their multifaceted regulatory roles. The management, restoration, and sustainable use of ecosystems therefore should form the basis of ‘nature-based approaches’, to climate change mitigation and adaptation which are both cost effective and have multiple social, cultural, economic and ecological benefits and are sustainable. UNEA-5 must recognize climate change as a global threat to nature and nature based solutions for adaptation to for climate.
 - Pakistan is already executing several initiatives, i.e. Ten Billion Tree Tsunami (TBTT) Project, Clean and Green Pakistan Movement, Recharge Pakistan, and Ecosystem Restoration Fund etc. The focus of all these initiatives is on promoting ‘Nature-Based Solutions’ with active involvement of communities. The initial thought in the draft declaration regarding the aforesaid initiatives will certainly highlight the importance of nature-based solutions as crucial element for meeting the i) Paris Agreement, ii) SDGs, and iii) alleviation of poverty. The main message is to stress that ‘If you invest in nature, nature pays you back in sustainable way’.
 - The ‘Billion Tree Tsunami’ initiative became the first entity under the global ‘Bonn Challenge’ to not only meet its pledge of restoring 3.48 million ha of forest

but has today significantly enhanced it by restoring over 6 million ha of forest. The project created half a million green jobs, revived the forest biodiversity, engaged the indigenous communities and energized our youth to become custodians of a green future.

- Green Economic Stimulus (Green Jobs): Based on the priorities of the Government of Pakistan for creating greater job opportunities during and post COVID 19; Green Economic Stimulus initiative is being implemented. For 2019-20; the 10BTTP has generated a minimum of 65,000 jobs which are planned to be scaled- up to 200,000 by December 2020. Green Stimulus is helping Pakistan to build back green while creating value chains and providing many jobs for spurring economy in post pandemic down turn.
- Natural capital is especially important to many developing countries because it forms a large share of their total wealth – 47% for low income countries. Natural capital accounting (NCA) focuses on this critical component of wealth accounts for material natural resources like minerals, water, energy and timber, as well as the emission of pollutants like greenhouse gases. It covers asset accounts and flow accounts, both monetary and physical. Methodology for ecosystem accounting, or for regulating services of ecosystems, is still being developed.

2. 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.

- UNEA-5 represents a highest forum where environment and climatic challenges can receive the same global significance as of health, poverty alleviation and security etc. The Assembly must therefore consider enhancing its technical support for Member States of UN-Environment (especially developing countries) in their quest to achieve 2030 SDGs targets in their respective domains. The Assembly should steer and consider translating SDGs into an actionable implementation process.

Pakistan's contributions to this are not worthy as:

- Pakistan was the first country to adopt to SDGs 2030 agenda through a unanimous resolution of the parliament. A federal level SDGs monitoring and coordination Unit was established at the highest level in the Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan. The Unit is serving as a national coordinating entity and have similar units at provincial level.
- With regard to SDGs achievements, it is worth mentioning that due to Pakistan's continuous efforts and initiatives of large-scale afforestation, biodiversity conservation, and investment in clean energy, electric vehicles and green jobs to combat climate change impacts have earned the country world acclaim by attaining the crucial SDG-13 'Climate Action' well before the deadline of 2030. With this milestone, Pakistan has demonstrated its commitment to the clean and green future and contribution to global efforts to tackle the challenge of climate change.
- Developing synergies and partnerships at all levels is essential to further conservation agenda in more holistic way. Enhanced role and effective participation of governments, NGOs, scientific bodies, communities and corporates is essential to find sustainable solutions and mobilize required resources. Pakistan believes that integrating 'business values' in conservation agenda can be very instrumental in this regard. UNEA-5 should consider an enhanced level of partnership to

strengthen actions through technical and financial assistance for nature conservation especially in the developing countries.

- As far as preparation for the meeting, its conduct and follow-up is concerned, the Assembly should establish a better and streamlined structure for coordinating inputs from various regions prior to the Assembly. The Secretariat should therefore consider having preparatory and open ended working groups meeting at least twice prior to the Assembly. It will enable member states to streamline the issues, resolutions and statements.
- Pakistan expects the Assembly to focus on implementation and conduct a transparent negotiation process regardless of political considerations. The fundamental principal of 'equity' and 'common but differentiated responsibilities' should remain central in global environmental governance and discussions at UNEA.

Secretary, Policy Division
United Nations Environment Programme
11, Rawalpindi Avenue, Islamabad
Pakistan

regarding the
meeting of the
Assembly

Best regards,

Muhammad Ali Asif Siddiqui
Director (Policy)
Government of Punjab
Ministry of Environment
Islamabad

On Wed, Sep 23, 2020 at 5:41
PM, "muhammad.asif.siddiqui" <
muhammad.asif.siddiqui@punjab.gov.pk>
wrote:

regarding

the meeting