



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Minister

Your ref

Our ref

Date

20/1566-

10 February 2021

Excellencies and colleagues,

We are now a few days from the online session of UNEA-5. In preparing for this Assembly, convened in extraordinary circumstances, we have continued to fulfil our mandate and to undertake efforts to address the climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution crises which we must in order to achieve a real sustainable future for all.

I would like to pay tribute to you for the genuine willingness to work with me and my team, the Bureau of the Assembly and the Executive Director to prepare for a successful UNEA and for your support in the process of defining the Message we can convey to the world from the online UNEA-5 in Nairobi. I greatly appreciate the constructive engagement and flexibility by all to engage on this question.

To this end, and following extensive informal consultations with Member States as well as with the Bureau of UNEA, I hereby present to you the document entitled "**Looking ahead to the resumed UN Environment Assembly in 2022 – Message from online UNEA-5, Nairobi 22 – 23 February 2021**". This document reflects, from my vantage point, a balanced compromise that fulfils the goals that we have set ourselves with it.

The attached message is not a *negotiated* document and therefore will not constitute a resolution, declaration, recommendation or a formal decision of the online UNEA-5 (in line with the rules of procedure of UNEA). The document I submit for your consideration is a President's proposal/message which I will invite the Assembly to endorse at the last plenary meeting of the online UNEA-5 to be held on 23 February 2021.

While a small number of questions remain where there appear some differences in position may remain, I believe the message constitutes a significant achievement and further conveys our readiness to work on outcomes with greater ambition and commitments to act at the resumed session of UNEA-5 next year.

In response to the need to clarify the status of this paper, I propose including the following footnote in the message: "*The Message contained in this document does not constitute a negotiated outcome of the 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and shall not set a precedent for either its resumed 5th session or any of the Environment Assembly's subsequent sessions.*"

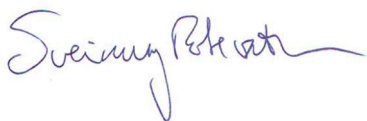
In order to be able to obtain the support of the Assembly, this letter, and the attached Messages paper will be formally circulated as relevant documentation for the fifth United Nations Assembly to allow all Member States and Stakeholders to fully familiarise themselves with the content.

This paper reflects what I believe is the best possible result. It is my feeling that further improvements to the draft would require negotiations, and this would not be in the spirit of the shared understanding around the online UNEA-5. This would also not be in accordance with the basis on which I continued my engagement on a possible message from this meeting. **I would therefore invite Member States who have questions to contact the Presidency team.**

It is my intention to brief the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives at its plenary meeting scheduled on 16 February, 2021 and welcome views of member states on my report.

I remain confident however that it is possible to show the world that the strength of UNEA is that we start our work on the basis of common ground.

Yours sincerely,



Sveinung Rotevatn
Minister of Climate and Environment, Norway

**Ministers responsible for the environment
Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to UNEP**