

**Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session
“Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”**

Proposed preambular section

PP1 We, the world’s Ministers for the Environment, have gathered at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, under exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

PP2 We recognize that a healthy ~~environment is one of the key pillars~~ ~~nature is prerequisite and foundation~~ for sustainable development in all its dimensions, and that ~~we depend on ecosystems~~ ~~nature~~, and the ~~solutions it~~ ~~services they~~ provides, ~~are fundamental~~ for our health, wellbeing, resilience, economy and ultimately our existence.

PP3 We note with profound concern the loss, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats for biodiversity, affecting both life on land and life under water, due to multiple and interlinked threats such as unsustainable management of ~~nature and its~~ ~~natural~~ resources, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, climate change, and pollution and littering of water, air, and soil.

NEW We note with further grave concern that the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and waste has not been met with pollution thus remaining a threat to nature and our health.

NEW [Placeholder for reference to outcomes from COP 26 Glasgow]

PP4 We are encouraged by the strength of innovation, knowledge building, and investment in ~~sustainable green~~ technologies currently taking place which indicate that solutions exist or can be found.

PP5 We are deeply concerned about the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on human lives and health, as well as on economies and societies, further threatening our ability to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals ~~and are aware that we face recurring risks of future diseases of zoonotic origin pandemics if we maintain the current patterns of interaction with nature~~.

PP6 We recognize the ~~need of ensuring the provision of sufficient, predictable and adequate means of implementation from developed countries to developing countries to fulfill commitments under relevant MEAs. need for transformative and systemic changes and could have the opportunity to achieve more by~~ ~~policies~~ ~~Policies~~ and investments that address several environmental challenges simultaneously through innovative holistic approaches ~~that truly value nature could complement such efforts~~.

Comentario [NSL1]: It is suggested to use more balanced language, highlighting environmental sustainability as one of the three pillars of sustainable development.

Comentario [NSL2]: The proposed wording suggests the dependence of human existence on nature-based solutions, a formulation that overstates a concept that is not multilaterally agreed upon and on whose centrality for achieving sustainable development there is no consensus.

Comentario [NSL3]: The term "natural resources" is preferred to "nature and its resources". States have sovereignty over resources within their national jurisdiction (Rio Principle 2, preamble and Art. 3 of the CBD). The use of formulations that posit nature as a subject is therefore discouraged.

Comentario [NSL4]: The scope of "green technologies" is not known, so it is requested to replace it by "sustainable", which includes the balance between economic, social and environmental pillars.

Comentario [NSL5]: The scientific source of this statement is unknown

Comentario [NSL6]: The main challenge to "achieving more" is not the lack of policies and investments that address several environmental challenges at once, but the implementation of commitments already made.

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PP7 We reaffirm, as UNEP celebrates through a Special Session of UNEA 50 years since its establishment, its continued great importance as advocate for the global environment and express our support for further strengthening of UNEP.

Proposed operative section

OP8 We commit to supporting a ~~sustainable green~~ and ~~just-inclusive~~ recovery, with the goal of revitalizing our economies and livelihoods, contribute to poverty eradication, by mainstreaming environmental, economic and social concerns into all policies and tools promoting economic recovery; making use of ~~sustainable green~~-economy pathways that emphasize ecosystem and knowledge-based management, and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to climate change in line with the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

Comentario [NSL7]: It is suggested that language be used that better reflects the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development

Comentario [NSL8]: The scope of this sentence is unknown

OP9 We commit to working across sectors and levels of government to halt the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of ecosystems, focusing on areas of particular importance for biodiversity, through sustainable land use, effectively managing protected areas, safeguarding especially vulnerable habitats, types of nature and eco-systems, and addressing unsustainable mining, illegal deforestation and wildlife trade, mining, and other crimes that have serious impacts on the environment.

Comentario [NSL9]: It is not known what is meant by "types of nature".

NEW We commit to ~~pursue and join untraditional partnerships across sectors, and working~~ with youth, indigenous peoples, private sector and all of civil society, to develop actions that strengthen nature and turn around the persistently negative long term trend for the environment described by recent scientific reports from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Comentario [NSL10]: The implications of "non-traditional partnerships" involving parties other than states are unknown.

OP10 We commit to rethinking our approach to the use and management of ~~natural resources~~ nature and its resources, to advance sustainable consumption and production patterns, ~~including through resource efficiency and circular economy policy approaches~~, and by considering ~~integrating~~ the ~~proper valuation~~ diverse values of nature and the assessment of nature-related risks in policymaking.

Comentario [NSL11]: It is preferred not to mention specific strategies or approaches to sustainable production and consumption, which should be pursued by countries on a context-specific basis. The targets and indicators associated with SDG 12 are recalled.

Comentario [NSL12]: Integrating nature valuation into policy cannot be assumed as a commitment, but it could be proposed for consideration.

OP11 We commit to promote and strengthen ~~nature-based solutions by actively protecting the conservation, sustainably managing, sustainable management, and restoring~~ restoration of degraded ecosystems, including those that provide us with food, water, and energy, are habitats for biodiversity and provide carbon storage and sequestration, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, for example native natural forests, wetlands, and mangroves, thus underpinning our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

OP12 We commit to cooperate across sectors and levels of government to ~~transform our promote~~ sustainable food systems in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which inspired ~~by~~ the UN Food Systems Summit vision, while promoting ~~of~~ sustainable food systems that deliver enhanced food security and resilience while reducing emissions, biodiversity loss and

Comentario [NSL13]: The concept of sustainable food systems does not come from the Food Systems Summit but from the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

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freshwater use, as an essential solution to accelerate actions on all the Sustainable Development Goals, ~~and we underline the natural role of UNEP in the Summit follow-up processes.~~

OP13 We will promote comprehensive land use planning ~~backed up by robust national enforcement, according to national circumstances and priorities,~~ as ~~a an invaluable~~ tool for sustainable development and help create a conducive business environment that stimulates investments in sustainable production and value chains.

OP14 We commit to safeguarding life under water, and a clean, healthy, and productive ocean capable of providing food, livelihoods, and storing carbon, through strengthening efforts to sustainably manage all our oceans, as well as by sustainably using and conserving marine protecting oceans, seas and coastal ecosystems, while acting to prevent pollution, and prevent marine temperature rise and ocean acidification, by keeping our efforts in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 14 and relevant multilateral agreements. Paris agreement.

OP15 We maintain our dedication to act in line with the implementation plan towards a pollution-free planet to conserve biodiversity protect nature and protect human health from adverse impacts from chemicals and waste and support an ambitious framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

OP16 [Placeholder for text with reference to recent developments and outcomes on Marine Litter]

OP17 We reaffirm the continued need to strengthen actions for nature and our commitment towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and call for an effective ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity that inter alia includes a set of clear and robust goals and targets to address the direct ~~and indirect~~ drivers of biodiversity loss and the provision of new, additional and predictable financial resources for its implementation in developing countries, as a key instrument to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

OP18 We call for the adequate and coherent implementation of the actions, commitments and resolutions adopted by the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly as well as previous UNEA outcomes, and further recognize our role, as Ministers of the Environment, in following up on these commitments within our own governments, contributing to coordinated action across sectors and levels of government and promoting effective implementation.

OP19 We recognize that the effective implementation of these actions requires enabling and coherent policy frameworks at all levels, and good governance ~~and law enforcement~~ at all levels, to be supported by effective means of implementation, in particular, means of implementation agreed upon under MEAs and from all sources of finance, including domestic, international, private sector and innovative sources in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as further capacity-building, environmentally sound technologies, dedicated development partnerships, and a renewed and strong commitment to multilateralism.

Comentario [NSL14]: The follow-up process to the Summit is not defined, nor is the role that the agencies should play. However, preliminarily, and taking into account the nature of the Summit, it would be the Rome-based UN agencies that would have a "natural" role should Members decide to establish an additional follow-up mechanism.

Comentario [NSL15]: It is important to note that in federal systems, inter-jurisdictional coordination is required to carry out these measures, so their adoption is beyond the competence of the National Executive Power in Argentina.

Comentario [NSL16]: Addressing indirect drivers of biodiversity loss are outside the legal scope of the CBD and therefore cannot be addressed by the GBF

Comentario [NSL17]: Law enforcement cannot be applied at all levels.