

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil
Environment Department
Environment Division I

- Brazil's comments to the draft Ministerial Declaration

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.

PP1bis: We recall the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, and its outcome document entitled "The future we want", which reaffirmed the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

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PP1ter We recall the 30th anniversary of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which has set out foundational principles of International Environmental Law and underpins our efforts towards the achievement of sustainable development.

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PP2. We recognize that the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the adequate provision of ecosystem services are fundamental for promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions, and that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by eradicating poverty, addressing social and economic inequalities and tackling food insecurity, are essential to strengthen conservation and sustainable use policies

PP3. We note with profound concern the loss of biodiversity, affecting both life on land and life under water, and we reaffirm our commitment to address the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss - land/sea use change, overexploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species - , as recognized by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

NEW. We note with further grave concern that the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life-cycle, agreed under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), has not been met with pollution thus remaining a threat to the environment and our health. We also take note of the main findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook II, including on the need to match to scale-up

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financial and technical support for developing countries and economies in transition for building basic chemicals and waste management systems.

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 technologies currently taking place which indicate that solutions exist or can be found and require enhanced international cooperation to enable all countries, in particular developing countries, to benefit from technological developments, in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity.

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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, which have disproportionately affected developing countries, 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 pandemics if we maintain the current unsustainable patterns of of consumption and production.

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PP6. We recognize the need for transformative and systemic changes and could have the opportunity to achieve more by policies and investments that address several environmental, social and economic challenges simultaneously through innovative holistic approaches, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances and in a manner consistent with the existing mandates of multilateral environmental agreements.

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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, in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 88 of document “The Future We Want”.

Proposed operative section

OP8. We commit to supporting a sustainable and inclusive recovery, with the goal of revitalizing our economies and livelihoods, contribute to poverty eradication, and redress persistent inequalities between developed and developing countries by mainstreaming sustainability into all policies and tools promoting economic recovery; making use of sustainable economy pathways that emphasize ecosystem and knowledge-based management and sustainable use and the key role of the sustainable use of biodiversity for technological innovation, enhancing international cooperation and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to climate change in line with the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

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OP9. We commit to working across sectors and levels of government to halt the loss of biodiversity, enhancing measures to protect areas of particular importance for biodiversity as defined by national governments, through sustainable land use, effectively managing protected areas, safeguarding especially vulnerable habitats, and eco-systems,

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stimulating the sustainable use of biodiversity, ensuring and increasing benefit-sharing from the utilization of genetic resources, supporting technology transfer, and addressing illegal deforestation and wildlife trade, mining, and other crimes that have serious impacts on the environment.

NEW We commit to pursue partnerships and engage all relevant stakeholders, and work with youth, indigenous peoples, academia, private sector and all of civil society, to develop actions that strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of nature, unlock investments in innovation, promote the sound management of chemicals and waste and decrease environmental degradation, taking note, as appropriate, of the 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).

OP10. We commit to promoting the sustainable use and management of our natural resources, to advance sustainable consumption and production patterns, by integrating the proper valuation of ecosystem services and improving mechanisms for environmental impact assessments in policymaking.

OP11. We commit to promote and strengthen ecosystem-based approaches by actively conserving, sustainably managing, and restoring degraded ecosystems and supporting and stimulating the sustainable use of biodiversity, including by fostering biobased innovation and technologies, recognizing that biodiversity provides us with a wide range of ecosystem services, thus underpinning our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with national circumstances and priorities, highlighting that such ecosystem-based approaches do not replace the priority actions needed to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is consistent with the objectives of the UNFCCC and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

OP12. We commit to cooperate across sectors and levels of government to build more sustainable food systems in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account, among others, the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit vision of sustainable food systems that deliver enhanced food security and resilience and foster innovation while reducing emissions, biodiversity loss and freshwater use, as an important solution to accelerate actions on all the Sustainable Development Goals,

OP13. We will promote comprehensive land use planning backed up by robust national enforcement as a relevant tool for sustainable development, taking into account the specific challenges faced by developing countries and the need to ensure adequate access to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

OP13bis. We will help create a conducive business environment that stimulates investments in sustainable production and value chains, consistent with relevant international obligations, and we will support and stimulate innovation based on the sustainable use of biodiversity.

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OP14. We commit to safeguarding life under water, and a clean, healthy, and productive ocean capable of providing a wide range of ecosystems services to support sustainable livelihoods, through strengthening efforts to sustainably manage all our oceans, as well as by sustainably using and protecting oceans, seas and coastal ecosystems, while acting to prevent pollution, and prevent marine temperature rise and ocean acidification, OP15. We maintain our dedication to act in line with the implementation plan towards a pollution-free planet to protect nature and human health from adverse impacts from chemicals and waste and support an ambitious framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. building from the lessons learned from the SAICM, its Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook II. We also commit to harnessing the potential of sustainable materials management, innovative business models, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building on chemical managements instruments, as well as to further addressing alternatives to legislation and capacity gaps in developing countries, including through scaling up new and innovative financing, for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

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

OP17. We reaffirm the continued need to strengthen actions for people and nature and our commitment towards the UN Decade of Action for Sustainable Development and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and call for an ambitious, balanced, realistic and transformative 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 halt biodiversity loss including by ensuring the provision of the necessary means of implementation, as a key instrument to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

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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.

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OP19. We highlight the urgent need to provide adequate and sufficient means of implementation to developing countries and we call for the immediate implementation of provisions on resource mobilization and means of implementation within relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in order to address the financial, capacity, technical and technological constraints faced by developing countries, including by mobilizing new, additional, sufficient and predictable multilateral financial resources to fulfill the commitments of developed countries enshrined in the Rio Conventions, the Paris Agreement and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be adopted at part two of the 15th Conference of the Parties to CBD, in line with the Principle of Common, But Differentiated Responsibilities.

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OP19bis. We commit to develop innovative financial mechanisms, including payment for ecosystem services schemes, to stimulate the adequate valuation of ecosystem services and of conservation, restoration, management, and sustainable use activities that support the provision of those services, and engage the private sector, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

OP19ter. We commit to ensure adequate capacity building and access to environmentally sound technologies, in particular for developing countries, and stimulate the effective participation of developing countries in scientific partnerships to foster innovation based on biodiversity, reaffirming the importance of dedicated North-South, South-South and triangular development partnerships, and a renewed and strong commitment to multilateralism and international solidarity.