

Revised version, submitted to the secretariat on 2 December 2021

Draft Resolution

Animal Welfare – Environment – Sustainable Development Nexus

[Ghana, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Democratic Republic of Congo]

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the international community envisaged a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development “the Future We Want” in particular paragraph 88 (d) calling for UNEP to “Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making”,

Keeping in mind that animals are an essential part of our ecosystems and that ecosystems are balanced by nature if allowed to self-regulate, but detrimental impacts on animals or their habitats can harm nature and our natural environment in various ways,

Recalling/Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the inextricable link between ecological integrity and human and animal health and welfare, and highlighted the need for inter-agency cooperation,

Bearing in mind that animal welfare, biodiversity and the environment are connected to human wellbeing and *acknowledging* that there is a strong body of science supporting animal sentience, and this is already recognised in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the African Union Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa, and aware, in this regard, of the ongoing effort by Member States to seek the adoption of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare,

Recognising, in this regard, the report of the UN Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature (A/75/266),

1. *Calls* on Member States to protect animals, protecting their habitats and meeting their animal welfare requirements, in the context of halting biodiversity loss,

restoring ecosystems, mitigating climate change, preventing pollution, reducing the risk of new emerging infectious zoonotic disease, moving to sustainable and agroecological food systems, and achieving sustainable development,

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development by:
 - a. analysing the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development,
 - b. implementing the findings and recommendations of the report that are relevant to UNEP's mandate,
 - c. identifying key partners and stakeholders with the view to implementing the findings and recommendations of the report, and
 - d. developing an awareness strategy on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development for the benefit of Member States,
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continuously engage the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a regular basis with the view to consolidating inputs and validating the progress of preparation and outcome of the report,
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to assure the promotion of animal welfare within the United Nations Environment Programme by fostering collaboration with Member States, business, experts, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, scientific panels, major groups, and other key stakeholders and partners.
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.