

Rwanda's inputs to DRAFT Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"

1. Rwanda wishes to refer to communication sent by Ulf Bjornholm, Secretary a.i. of Governing Bodies and Acting Director, Governance Affairs Office, UN Environment Programme, on 5th January 2022, inviting to comment on the DRAFT Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".
 2. Rwanda appreciates the opportunity to further comments on this DRAFT Ministerial declaration. We believe that the Draft declaration circulated by the President of UNEA5 on 13 December 2021 to be satisfactory and recognize that some aspects of our earlier submission have been included in the current draft.
 3. However, the document still requires some adjustments before it would be ready for adoption. Therefore, we welcome the reference on increased demand for single-use plastics related to health protection occasioned by Covid-19 Pandemic in the DRAFT Ministerial declaration, still we believe that a more specific reference to taking concrete steps towards international cooperation and coordination on plastic pollution issue is still needed and should be supportive of a global agreement on plastic pollution as a major component of international action to deliver on SDG 14.1.
 4. In addition, the Draft Ministerial declaration should also emphasize the role of Circular Economy in avoiding biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems and inspiring regenerative solutions for biodiversity recovery. Circular Economy is increasingly being viewed as an essential part of the solution to deliver on climate, biodiversity, and Environmental, Social and Governance targets, and manage risks.
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