



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**PASUGUAN NG REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS**  
**NAIROBI**

Note No. PHL- 08 - 2022

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines in Nairobi presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and has the honor to submit the enclosed inputs received from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines regarding the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration for consideration and adoption at the resumed session of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) to be held on 28 February – 2 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Any additional inputs to be received from the DENR will be forwarded to the UNEP accordingly.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines in Nairobi avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nairobi, 7 January 2022

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**  
**NAIROBI**





*Republic of the Philippines*  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
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DEC 01 2021

**NORALYN JUBAIRA-BAJA**

Assistant Secretary  
United Nations and Other International Organizations  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Dear Assistant Secretary Noralyn Jubaira-Baja,

This refers to your request for input on the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration for the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5). We are pleased to submit our comments and revisions on the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration for UNEA-5 for your consideration. May we refer you to our comments below:

- We would like to propose the addition of the following paragraphs:
  - PROPOSED (After OP 15): We reaffirm our commitment to the strict implementation and enforcement of the provisions and amendments of the Basel Convention, particularly pertaining to the sound post-pandemic management of biomedical wastes, to protect human health and the environment against the hazardous effects of these wastes, especially protecting vulnerable countries. [PH]
  - PROPOSED (After OP 17): We reaffirm our commitment to eliminating illegal wildlife trade and urge stringent measures to regulate or eliminate the trade and consumption of high-risk wildlife including immediate closure of high-risk markets, while also recognizing the distinction and needs of subsistence consumption required for communities from the Arctic first nations to the forest-dependent indigenous communities around the world, in order to prevent future and even more catastrophic pandemics. [PH]
  - PROPOSED (After OP 18): We recognize the whole-of-UN-System approach towards a green post-pandemic recovery that values nature as the foundation for a healthy society and a thriving economy, and thereby addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, including their intricate links among each other and their inter-related cumulative impacts, prioritizing the well-being of both people and nature. [PH]
  - PROPOSED (For OP 16): We support the development of a legally binding global treaty that will comprehensively address plastic pollution, including marine plastic pollution, taking into account the whole-of-life-cycle approach on plastics towards a circular economy, in order to expedite the achievement of the SDG Goal 14.1. [PH]

- On Para. 2 (PP2), we suggest using “services” instead of “solutions,” to more closely describe what nature provides;
- On Para. 3 (PP3), we suggest deleting “for biodiversity, affecting both life on land and life under water,” to simplify the sentence;
- We suggest placing Para. 5 or the placeholder on UNFCCC COP 26 right after Para 3 to emphasize the importance of Climate Change;
- On Para. 8, we suggest the following alternative wording: “We recognize the need for transformative and systemic changes that addresses the root of our environmental challenges and encourage innovative and holistic approaches that truly value nature.”
- On Para. 9 (PP7), we suggest changing the wording as follows: “We reaffirm the continued importance of the UNEP and express our support for its further strengthening, as it celebrates 50 years of advocating for the global environment”;
- On OP 8, we suggest omitting “contribute to poverty eradication, by mainstreaming environmental concerns into all policies and tools promoting economic recovery” to be concise and to separate the phrase regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases for emphasis.
- On Para 11 (OP9), we suggest omitting the term “illegal,” and instead use it to describe wildlife trade. Deforestation in general is an important issue that affects our previously stated concerns of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. In addition, we suggest including the word “irresponsible” beside mining.
- On Para. 12, may we request clarification on the term “untraditional partnerships.” For now, we suggest to encourage joining of untraditional partnerships instead of committing; and
- On OP 14, we suggest the following clarification “...while acting to prevent *marine* pollution...” since the paragraph is discussing life under water.
- On OP 18, we suggest replacing “follow-up” with “follow-through”;

Thank You.

Very truly yours,

  
**ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES, CESO I**  
 Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and  
 International Affairs

## Ministerial declaration for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly “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 nature is ~~prerequisite and~~ *the* foundation for sustainable development in all its dimensions, and that we depend on nature, and the *services* ~~solutions~~ it provides, for our health, wellbeing, resilience, economy and ultimately our existence.

PP3 We ~~note with profound~~ *are* concerned with 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 resources, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, climate change, and pollution and littering of water, air, and soil.

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

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.

PP4 We are encouraged by the strength of innovation, knowledge building, and investment in 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 pandemics if we maintain the current patterns of interaction with nature.

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 challenges simultaneously through innovative holistic approaches that truly value nature. *We recognize the need for transformative and systemic changes that addresses the root of our environmental challenges and encourage innovative and holistic approaches that truly value nature.*

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.~~ *We reaffirm the continued importance of the UNEP and express our support for its further strengthening, as it celebrates 50 years of advocating for the global environment.*

### Proposed operative section

OP8 We commit to supporting a green and just recovery, with the goal of revitalizing our economies and livelihoods, ~~contribute to poverty eradication, by mainstreaming environmental concerns into all policies and tools promoting economic recovery;~~ *by* making use of green economy pathways that emphasize ecosystem and knowledge-based management,

*We commit to significantly* reducing our greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to climate change in line with the Paris Agreement.

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 ~~illegal~~ deforestation and ~~illegal~~ wildlife trade, *irresponsible* mining, and other crimes that have serious impacts on the environment.

NEW We *encourage* ~~to pursue and joining~~ untraditional partnerships across sectors, and work 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).

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

OP11 We commit to promote and strengthen nature-based solutions by actively protecting, sustainably managing, and restoring degraded ecosystems 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 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 food systems, inspired by the UN Food Systems Summit vision of sustainable food systems that deliver enhanced food security and resilience while reducing emissions, biodiversity loss and 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 as 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 protecting oceans, seas and coastal ecosystems, while acting to prevent *marine* pollution, and prevent marine temperature rise and ocean acidification, by keeping our efforts in line with the Paris agreement.

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.

PROPOSED: We reaffirm our commitment to the strict implementation and enforcement of the provisions and amendments of the Basel Convention, particularly pertaining to the sound post-pandemic management of biomedical wastes, to protect human health and the environment against the hazardous effects of these wastes, especially protecting vulnerable countries. [PH]

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

OP16 PROPOSED: We support the development of a legally binding global treaty that will comprehensively address plastic pollution, including marine plastic pollution, taking into account the whole-of-life-cycle approach on plastics towards a circular economy, in order to expedite the achievement of the SDG Goal 14.1. [PH]

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 ambitious but pragmatic 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 as a key instrument to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

PROPOSED: We reaffirm our commitment to eliminating illegal wildlife trade and urge stringent measures to regulate or eliminate the trade and consumption of high-risk wildlife including immediate closure of high-risk markets, while also recognizing the distinction and needs of subsistence consumption required for communities from the Arctic first nations to the forest-dependent indigenous communities around the world, in order to prevent future and even more catastrophic pandemics. [PH]

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 *through* on these commitments within our own governments, contributing to coordinated action across sectors and levels of government and promoting effective implementation.

PROPOSED: We recognize the whole-of-UN-System approach towards a green post-pandemic recovery that values nature as the foundation for a healthy society and a thriving economy, and thereby addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, including their intricate links among each other and their inter-related cumulative impacts, prioritizing the well-being of both people and nature. [PH]

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



**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS**

**OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

05 November 2021

Sir:

The Department wishes to inform DENR that the updated UNEA-5 zero draft Ministerial Declaration may be accessed through the following link: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/inputs-ministerial-declaration-unea-5>.

Your Office may submit its inputs on the zero draft through [unio.div2@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:unio.div2@dfa.gov.ph) on or before 25 November 2021, for onward transmittal to UNEP.

With my best wishes.

Very truly yours,  
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

  
for **NORALYN JUBAIRA-BAJA**  
Assistant Secretary

**HON. ROY A. CIMATU**

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

**CC: ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES**

Undersecretary for Policy Planning and International Affairs

(rgm/ags) UNIO-2-7579 -2021



## Re: DFA-UNIO letter to DENR re Updated UNEA-5 Zero Draft Ministerial Declaration

1 message

AAM <albertmagg@yahoo.com>

Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 4:19 PM

Reply-To: AAM <albertmagg@yahoo.com>

To: BMB <director@bmb.gov.ph>, BMB Adirector <adirector@bmb.gov.ph>, BMB - Planning 2 <bpmkd@bmb.gov.ph>, EMB - Office of the Director <od@emb.gov.ph>, EMB - Planning 2 <pppdd@emb.gov.ph>, recordsco <recordsco@emb.gov.ph>, EMB CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR <emb.co.od@gmail.com>, "Dir. Wilfredo Moncano" <mgbcentral@mgb.gov.ph>, MGB Planning <planning@mgb.gov.ph>, "MGB - CO.Planning" <mgbcoplan@yahoo.com>, DENR FMB <fmb@denr.gov.ph>, FMB FPPKMD Policy <fmbpolicysection@gmail.com>, FMB Assistant Director <denrfmb.ad@gmail.com>, ODIR ERDB <odir.erdb@gmail.com>, Erdb Records <erdbrecords@gmail.com>, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau <erdb@denr.gov.ph>, erdb legaloffice <erdb.legal.office@gmail.com>, PSD-PPS <psddivision@gmail.com>

Cc: "Ismojica@denr.gov.ph" <ismojica@denr.gov.ph>, Anna Michelle Lim <milim@denr.gov.ph>, Cherry Winsom Holgado <cherry.winsom@gmail.com>, OUEIEA Secretariat <oueiea.denr@gmail.com>

Dear PSD Team,

Please refer to the advance copy of my inputs (new four PROPOSED operative paragraphs) as indicated in blue fonts.

For your consideration.

Albert

\*\*\*\*\*  
Albert Albarejos **MAGALANG**  
**Climate Change Service**  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Mobile: +6917 634 4418  
aamagalang@denr.gov.ph/ albertmagg@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

On Thursday, 18 November 2021, 03:23:39 pm GMT+8, PSD-PPS <psddivision@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

With Reference to the letter from Asec. Noralyn Jubaira-Baja for DENR's inputs on the Zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration of the 5th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA\_5), we would like to request for your inputs/comments on the same for our consolidation.

We would appreciate receiving your comments on or before November 22, 2021 (Tuesday)

**Thank you.**

**Policy Studies Division**  
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Your **FEEDBACK** matters.



Zero Draft Ministerial Declaration UNEA-5 wt Albert's inputs.docx

17K

Zero draft, 8 October 2021

**Ministerial Declaration for the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”**

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