

Title: *Draft Political Declaration of the Special Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme*

PP1 *We the heads of states and governments, ministers and high-level representatives, having gathered, together with the representatives of international organisations and other stakeholders at the Special Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), entitled "Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",*

PP1 bis *Expressing our gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting the commemorative international meeting - a historic milestone for the global community and UNEP, to reflect on the past and envisage the future,*

PP1 ter *Acknowledging with appreciation UNEP's 50 years contribution in coordinating a worldwide effort to confront the planet's biggest environmental challenges,*

PP2 *Recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right that is important for the enjoyment of human rights,*

PP3/4 *Recalling the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for Human Environment, the Rio*

Declaration on Environment and Development and the Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future we want", General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development", General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly Resolution 73/333 of 30 August 2019, entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277", as well as the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields,

PP5 *Reaffirming all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,*

PP6 moved to OP2 bis

PP7 *Recognizing the urgent need and our shared responsibility to reinforce and advance the protection, preservation, restoration and sustainable use of the environment for present and future generations in an equitable manner, as it is crucial to urgently break the current trends of environmental decline, which are impeding progress towards sustainable development,*

PP8 moved to OP1 ter

PP9 *Recognizing the essential role of the environmental rule of law and effective international environmental governance, and welcoming ongoing initiatives to promote a*

coherent approach for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation, and recognizing the crucial importance of effective national legal frameworks and governance structures for promoting compliance with international environmental law, and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals,

OP1 Support the enhancement of international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development and promote enhanced coordination within the UN system for a balanced integration of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development,

OP1 bis Commit to mainstream in a balanced manner the environmental dimension of sustainable development into national policies, strategies and planning in accordance with national circumstances, including through supporting capacity-building of relevant authorities, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development,

OP1 ter Underline the importance of effective implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law with the enhanced ambition regarding means of implementation, and enabling an environmentally sustainable future for our planet and addressing urgent social, economic, and environmental challenges especially against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate impact on the developing countries, especially on the poorest and most vulnerable countries, by ensuring environmentally sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery and building back better,

OP2 Affirm the role of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) as the leading decision-making body on the environment, with the universal membership, for enhancing the progress of the comprehensive implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and setting the overarching guidance for strengthening international environmental governance and for implementation of the global environmental agenda, in accordance with paragraph 88 of the document “The Future We Want”,

OP2 bis Reaffirm the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, keeps under review the world environment situation and assists Member States in implementing their environmental commitments, consistent with paragraph 88 of the document “The Future We Want”. We support continuous strengthening of intergovernmental oversight and accountability in the implementation of UNEP’s mandate,

OP3 Renew our support for strengthening the collaboration and cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and UNEA, while respecting their independence and respective mandates, with a view to achieving progressive improvements in the state of the global environment, as well as in the provision of the means of implementation. To that end, we invite the governing bodies of MEAs to collaborate with UNEA, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence and its effective implementation,

OP4 Support the strengthening of UNEP with its Headquarters in Nairobi and underline the importance of universal membership to UNEP’s Governing Bodies and invite all Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies who have not yet done so, to become accredited

to the Committee of the Permanent Representatives of UNEP. Strongly encourage the Governing Bodies of all the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular those hosted by UNEP, to convene their meetings more frequently in Nairobi,

OP5 Stress the importance of achieving gender parity and equitable geographic distribution in the UNEP Secretariat, including for senior level positions, and request the Executive Director of UNEP to increase ongoing efforts and take effective action in this regard and report progress achieved on a regular basis to the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

OP6 Reaffirm that all Member States and Members of the Specialized Agencies, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, should contribute financially to UNEP. In this regard, we commit to supporting UNEP through more stable, adequate and predictable, prudently managed core contributions to the Environment Fund, based on voluntary indicative scale of contributions determined for all Member States, and stress the need to diversify UNEP's donor base by encouraging Member States that do not regularly contribute to the Environment Fund to do so,

OP6 Bis Encourage UNEP, as chair of the Environment Management Group in collaboration with the other members of the Group, to continue to strengthen system-wide inter-agency coordination on the environment and to call for the active involvement and support from all of the Group in the implementation of system-wide strategies on the environment,

OP7 Support UNEP's key role in promoting and strengthening the science-policy interface, in order to support international review processes and policy decisions for international environmental law and governance, and encourage formation of geographically and gender balanced scientific community panels. Commit to investing further in environmental research and make more effective use of knowledge generated by the scientific community,

OP8. Recognize the importance of access to information, access to public participation in decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters. We invite Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies to disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information and raise public awareness on critical, persistent and emerging environmental issues, and continue to support UNEP in developing the global environmental data strategy,

OP9. Commit to continuously strengthen, where needed, environmental laws, policies, and regulatory frameworks at the national, regional and global level, without regression of the level of environmental protection, as well as capacities across all sectors for the effective implementation of international environmental law by closing knowledge gaps, enhancing cross-sectoral coordination, improving monitoring and law enforcement, increasing political will and engaging stakeholders, in accordance with national legal systems, while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation in supporting and complementing national actions,

OP9 bis Invite Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies to increase their support to the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V), for promoting the development and

implementation of environmental rule of law, and strengthening Member States' capacity, upon their request, in developing and implementing the environmental rule of law,

OP10. Invite Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies, that have not yet done so, to consider ratifying relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and to effectively implement them, through the incorporation of their provisions into national legal systems,

OP10 bis Call upon Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies to recognize and address principles of international environmental law in their domestic legal systems, as appropriate, and highlight the support that can be provided through the Montevideo Programme V. Encourage the cooperation to build and support capacities at all levels to recognize the role of principles of international environmental law,

OP10 ter Commit to cooperate to strengthen capacities across all sectors for the effective implementation of international environmental law including in the administrative and justice sectors in accordance with national legal systems while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation in this regard,

OP11. Call upon Member States and Members of the Specialized Agencies to enhance the provision, mobilization, effective and efficient use of all types and sources of means of implementation, including capacity-building, access to technology and financial support in order to support developing countries, especially those most affected by environmental degradation, in the implementation of national environmental policies in the areas in which they require it and complementing their national efforts, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as existing commitments under the various Multilateral Environmental Agreements,

OP12. Commit to exploring the potential for domestic environmental financial resources through policy reviews and develop further innovative financial mechanisms, including through enhanced collaboration with the private sector, to advance the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, taking into consideration readiness, priorities and national circumstances of Member States and Members of Specialised Agencies, and that developing countries may need enhanced International cooperation in addition to their national efforts, for addressing their challenges and financial constraints,

OP13 Invite the Executive Director of UNEP to develop a mechanism to provide assistance to support Member States at the national level upon their request to improve implementation of their environmental objectives, international environmental law and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, including on access to scientific information, technologies, technical assistance and financial resources from all sources, taking into account national circumstances and efforts, while ensuring complementarity with the work of treaty bodies. Request the Executive Director of UNEP to present options for the modalities of such mechanism for the consideration of UNEA at its sixth session,

OP14. Invite Member States and Members of the Specialized Agencies to make optimal use of existing financial mechanisms and funds, for purposes of implementing international environmental law and improving the status of the global environment, especially in promoting environmentally sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We call on the United Nations to ensure optimal use and access to existing financial instruments in order to support Member States capacity building, financing and technology transfers, with a special focus on the needs of developing countries,

OP15. Encourage the active and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders in a geographically and gender balanced manner, by facilitating their full and effective participation, and support strengthening the presence of major groups and other stakeholders in UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. We commit to continue exploring new ways to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society including using digital means,

OP15 Bis. [CHE, EU placeholder to provide text re. UNEP We Want report]