

**Statement by Oman representing Asia Pacific
UNEA 5.2**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, President of fifth session of the UN environment Assembly, and Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway,
Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme,
Excellencies,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today I have the great honor to speak on behalf of the Asia Pacific region in my capacity as Chair of the Asia Pacific Group.

Our region, consisted of 55 countries, add our voices to stress the urgent need for a global framework to prevent and reduce plastic pollution, marine plastic pollution and single-use plastic product pollution, which is informed by circular economy principles, and the waste management hierarchy and also complements existing instruments and initiatives.

Some of our Member States ask that the global framework be based on a precautionary approach and common but differentiated responsibility. Without preempting negotiations and decisions remaining during UNEA5.2 on this topic, we, Asia – Pacific region, also wish to secure opportunities and occasions to consider a wide range of solutions and approaches that are most practical and feasible, recognizing that plastics play a functional role in modern society.

Allow me to also note that the fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific was held successfully on 5-7 October 2022 in Suwon, the Republic of Korea. The Forum was jointly organized by Republic of Korea's Ministry of the Environment and the UN Environment Programme. The Ministerial Forum discussed issues related to the UNEA5.2, including nature based action for the sustainable development goals, draft resolutions and draft ministerial declaration and the outcome of the forum has contributed to the preparatory process of this UNEA5.2.

We would also like to thank the Regional Offices of West Asia for the regional consultations they have organized to support Member States in their preparations for UNEA 5.2, the guidance they provided and the information they shared.

We are proud of our Member States that have made contributions to UNEA5 in form of draft resolutions that are ready for our leaders' decision on possible collective planetary action. In addition to India and Japan who are proponents of the draft resolutions on single-use plastic product pollution and marine plastic pollution respectively, we recognize the contributions made by Indonesia on sustainable lake management, Sri Lanka on nitrogen management, Mongolia on Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure. In light of indisputable importance of water security for development and ecosystem health, our region recognizes the importance of these resolutions on sustainable lake management and on nitrogen management.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The COVID-19 pandemic had hampered the capacity of our region to respond to the planetary crisis. We acknowledge that government policies in response to COVID-19 can be improved by reinforcing the linkages between human well-being, creation of green jobs and the health of ecosystems. That said, some of our countries require support to enable such transition to greener, more sustainable development pathways post-COVID.

Even with the lingering impacts of the pandemic, we, the Asia-Pacific region, remain committed to the submission of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions for implementing the Paris Agreement, support the extension of the 10 year-framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production until 2030 as well as strengthened international environmental governance at global, regional and local levels.

This year, 2022 is the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50) and of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment (Stockholm@50). However, our collective environmental action has fallen short, and the planetary health is in crisis. The Asia Pacific Region renew our commitment to do our part to scale up and accelerate global environmental action.

I Thank You,,,

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