

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 entitled "UNEP @50: Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), (Agreed ad ref)*

PP1 bis *Expressing our gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting the special session - a historic milestone for the global community and UNEP, to reflect on the achievements and lessons learned and envisage the future ambitions and actions to support the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. (Agreed ad ref)*

PP1 ter *Acknowledging with appreciation UNEP's 50 years contribution in supporting a worldwide effort to overcome the planet's biggest environmental challenges, (Agreed ad ref)*

PP2 *We recognise that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights and take note of Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13 entitled "The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment" and noting that UNGA has been invited to consider the matter. (Agreed ad ref reservation)*

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", in particular paragraph 88, 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", General Assembly resolution 76/208 of 17 December 2021, entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Program", as well as the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. (Agreed ad ref)*

PP7 Alt *Recognizing the urgent need and our common objectives to reinforce and advance the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the environment for present and future generations as it is crucial to urgently reverse the current trends of environmental decline, which are impeding progress towards sustainable development while recognizing differing national circumstances. (Agreed ad ref)*

PP7 bis. *We reaffirm that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and protecting and managing the natural*

resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. while stressing that poverty eradication remains the greatest challenge facing the world today (Agreed ad ref)

PP9 *Recognizing the importance of fostering environmental rule of law and effective international environmental governance through multilateral processes and conscious of ongoing initiatives to promote coordinated approaches and complementary actions for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification, land degradation, as well as pollution and unsound management of chemicals and waste. (Agreed ad ref)*

PP9 bis. *Recognizing the crucial importance of effective domestic legal frameworks and governance structures for promoting compliance with obligations under international environmental law, and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation in this regard. (Agreed ad ref)*

OPI QUAR Reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration, and recognizing that we face different challenges, we will strengthen our international cooperation towards the environmental dimension of sustainable development. (Agreed ad ref)

OPI Support the strengthening of international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development and promote enhanced coordination within the United Nations system for a balanced integration of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. (Agreed ad ref)

OPI bis Commit to mainstream in a balanced manner the environmental dimension of sustainable development into national policies, strategies and planning, including but not limited to supporting capacity-building of relevant authorities, taking into account national circumstances, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. (Agreed ad ref)

OPI ter Call for renewed efforts at all levels to enhance implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law, and to keep the ambition regarding environmental protection and means of implementation, including through global partnerships and enabling sustainable future for our planet and addressing urgent social, economic, and environmental challenges, also considering the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate impact on the poorest and people in vulnerable situations by ensuring environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable recovery, including by building back better and greener. (Agreed ad ref)

OP2 Affirm the indispensable role of the United Nations Environment Assembly within the UN system as the intergovernmental decision making body with universal membership while respecting the independence and respective mandates of multilateral environmental agreements, for enhancing the progress of the comprehensive implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda within the United Nations system, providing

overarching policy guidance, strengthening international environmental governance and implementation of the global environmental agenda, in line with the document “The Future We Want”. *(Agreed ad ref)*

OP2 bis Reaffirm the role of the United Nations Environment Programme 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. We support continuous strengthening of intergovernmental oversight and accountability of UNEP Secretariate in implementation of UNEPs mandate in line with governing council decision GC27/2. *(Agreed ad ref)*

OP3 Renew our support for strengthening the collaboration and cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP 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 multilateral environmental agreements to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence and its effective implementation. *(Agreed ad ref)*

OP4 Support the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional presence, and underline the importance of universal membership to the United Nations Environment Programme and invite all Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies who have not yet done so, to become accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme. In that regard, take note with interest of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 76/246 and underline the need to continue improving the United Nations Office in Nairobi as the only United Nations headquarters in the Global South and the host of UNEP. Furthermore, invite the United Nations Office in Nairobi to provide more competitive services while inviting the governing bodies of all the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular those hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, to consider convening, within their mandates, their meetings more frequently in Nairobi. *(Agreed ad ref)*

OP5 Stress the importance of advancing equitable geographic distribution and gender parity of staff in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly at professional and senior level positions, and request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue ongoing efforts and take effective action in this regard and continue to report progress achieved on a regular basis to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. *(Agreed ad ref)*

OP 5 Bis alt Invites the UNGA to consider, as appropriate, the level of required regular budget funding to help UNEP to fulfil its mandate, taking into account its approved work programme and UNGA resolution 2997 (XXVII). *(Agreed ad ref)*

OP6 Reaffirm that all Member States and Members of the Specialized Agencies, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, should contribute financially to the United Nations Environment Programme. In this regard, we urge Member States and others in a position to do so to support the United Nations Environment Programme through more stable, adequate and predictable core contributions to the Environment Fund with due consideration to the voluntary indicative scale of contributions and stress the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to prudently manage its financial resources, and diversify its donor base by encouraging Member States that do not regularly contribute to the Environment Fund to do so. (*Agreed ad ref*)

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, (*Agreed ad ref*)

OP7 Support United Nations Environment Programme's key role in promoting and strengthening the science-policy interface, in order to support intergovernmental debate, negotiations and deliberations and policy decisions relating to international environmental law and governance, promote the identification and sharing of the best available science to support effective environmental action and policy making and in cooperation and collaboration between the relevant scientific panels and to encourage geographical and gender balance in the formation of such panels. Commit to investing further in environmental research, including in United Nations Environment Programme's assessments, and make more effective use of knowledge generated by the scientific community. (*Agreed ad ref*)

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 the United Nations Environment Programme in developing a global environmental data strategy. (*Agreed ad ref*)

OP9. Resolve to continuously strengthen, where needed, environmental laws, policies, and regulatory frameworks at the national, regional and global level, without reducing the existing levels 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. (*Agreed ad ref*)

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), to promote the development and implementation of environmental rule of law and welcome

the ongoing discussions on this matter while strengthening Member States' and Members of Specialized Agencies capacity, upon their request. **(Agreed ad ref)**

OP10. Encourage 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, including through the incorporation of their provisions into national legal systems as appropriate. **(Agreed ad ref)**

OP10 bis Invite Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies to address relevant principles of international environmental law in their domestic legal systems, as appropriate noting, in this context, the ongoing work in the International Law Commission on general principles of law. **(Agreed ad ref)**

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 domestic legal systems while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation and support in this regard. **(Agreed ad ref)**

OP11 Alt Call upon Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies to enhance the provision and mobilization of all types and sources of means of implementation, including capacity-building, technology, and financial support, and promote global partnerships and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to support developing countries, 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. **(Agreed ad ref)**

OP 11 Alt bis alt 2. Call for the urgent fulfilment of existing financial commitments under various MEAs to assist developing countries, and stress the importance of fulfilling relevant pledges. **(Agreed ad ref)**

OP12. Commit to further amplify the mobilisation of domestic financial resources, including through enhanced collaboration with the private sector, to advance the holistic and balanced implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, taking into consideration needs of developing countries for enhanced international cooperation and support to complement their efforts to mobilise domestic resources. **(Agreed ad ref)**

OP13 Invite the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme to identify further options in line with UNEP'S Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work for providing assistance to Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies upon their request, including through the UN Country Teams, to improve implementation of their environmental objectives, international environmental law and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, including the access to scientific information, technologies, technical assistance and financial resources, while ensuring complementarity with the work of treaty bodies. **(Agreed ad ref)**

OP14. Call on the United Nations within its mandate to facilitate effective and efficient use, and adequate and timely access to existing financial instruments including to support Member States' and Members of Specialised Agencies' access to capacity building and technology, with a special focus on the needs of developing countries. Call upon Member States and Members of the Specialized Agencies to make effective and efficient use of existing financial mechanisms and funds, for purposes of implementing international environmental law and improving the status of the global environment in promoting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. (*Agreed ad ref*)

OP15. Encourage the active and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities and strengthen the ability of major groups and stakeholders to participate in United Nations Environment Programme meetings and activities in line with applicable rules and procedures (EU) in a geographically and gender balanced manner. We commit to continue exploring new ways to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society including using digital means. (*Agreed ad ref*)

OP15 Bis. Take note of the report, "The UNEP We Want" prepared by major groups and stakeholders that provides proposals towards a more inclusive and impactful United Nations Environment Programme. (*Agreed ad ref*)