

1 **Ministerial declaration for the sixth**
2 **session of the United Nations**
3 **Environment Assembly**

4 **“Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral**
5 **actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and**
6 **pollution”**
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- 9 1. We, the world’s ministers for the environment, have gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, together with
10 representatives of international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders at the sixth
11 session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the urgent aim of taking effective,
12 inclusive and sustainable multilateral action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- 13 2. We recall the Rio+20 Principles, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), , and previous UNEA
14 Resolutions, and welcome the recommendations of the Secretary General in his report *Our*
15 *Common Agenda*, and the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
- 16 3. We acknowledge with great urgency the systemic threat to security and human development posed
17 by the three **planetary crises [IDN: replace w/ “inter-related challenges”]** of climate change,
18 biodiversity loss and pollution, and emphasize the importance of integrated, science-based
19 approaches, including the traditional knowledge of **Indigenous Peoples [IDN: replace w/**
20 **“indigenous peoples”]** and local communities, **[IDN: add “with support of sustainable financial**
21 **mechanism”]** that can strengthen resilience to present and future emerging risks with global
22 solidarity, while advancing the attainment of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable
23 environment for all.
- 24 4. We welcome the important outcomes of the twenty-seventh conference of the Parties to the
25 UNFCCC, including the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund to support vulnerable countries
26 as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the twenty eighth Conference of the Parties to
27 the UNFCCC including XXX , the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the
28 Convention on Biological Diversity including its adoption of the **historic [IDN: replace w/**
29 **“historically strategic”]** [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), and the fifteenth
30 Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD including the [Abidjan Call](#) to act on drought, desertification
31 and land degradation.
- 32 5. We also welcome with appreciation other important multilateral achievements including the [2022](#)
33 [UN Ocean Conference](#) and the 2023 UN Water Conference, the adoption of the UN Human Rights
34 Council resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and **the**
35 **adoption [IDN: reserve or replace w/ “the successful conclusion of negotiations”]** of the
36 agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable
37 use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

38 **[IDN: add “5bis. We recognize that water is greatly impacted by, and helps to combat, the**
39 **inter-related challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and is core to**
40 **[UNEP's global work](#) and mandate. We note the strong call from the UN 2023 Water**
41 **Conference of establishing a Special Envoy on Water, establishing an inter-**
42 **governmental review mechanism on water, accelerating the achievement of water-**
43 **related commitments, and strengthening the UN system to respond to the world’s urgent**
44 **and increasing water challenges. We avail the UNEA as a platform for inter-**
45 **governmental review on water and request that UNEP avails itself to supporting the**
46 **special envoy on water and strengthens its water programme to address the inter-**
47 **related challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and take forward the**
48 **recommendations from this conference.”]**

- 49 6. We note with great concern the main findings of the Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental

- 50 Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment report (AR6) approved in March 2023, and recognise
51 that global greenhouse gas emissions will need to be halved by 2030 to limit global warming to
52 1.5°C. By the current trajectory, as estimated by assessing nationally determined contributions
53 (NDCs) announced by October 2021, it is likely that warming will exceed the 1.5°C target during
54 the 21st century, which calls for significant rapid and sustained reductions in all sectors, **[IDN: add**
55 **"especially for sectors with large share and growth in gross GHG emissions, based on the**
56 **common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities principles"]** while
57 ensuring that the level of support provided to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate
58 change remains adequate.
- 59 7. We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive and collective
60 action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution we surely need to reinforce global
61 inclusiveness and solidarity.
- 62 8. We are strongly committed to urgently address our common and global environmental challenges
63 through effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, **[IDN: add "intra- and"]** inter-generational
64 **and [IDN: replace w/ "as well as"]** science- and knowledge-based actions together with all
65 stakeholders including civil society, citizens, ~~Indigenous Peoples~~ **[IDN: replace w/ "indigenous**
66 **peoples"]** and local communities, **[IDN: add "the public sector,"** the private sector, **and [IDN: delete]**
67 academia **[IDN: add "and philanthropies"]**; and we therefore decide to take the following actions,
68 taking into account, **[IDN: different national priorities and respective capabilities, as well as]**
69 the special needs and circumstances of the least greenhouse gas emitters and the most
70 vulnerable, in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries
71 (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), African States, and developing middle-
72 income countries:
- 73 a. Deploy sustained global efforts **[IDN: add "and resources"]** to address climate change in line
74 with the principles of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, including by addressing the urgent
75 need for scaled up action for adaptation and resilience as well as loss and damage. We will
76 spare no effort to protect our communities against natural disasters induced or exacerbated by
77 climate change, such as drought, famine, and flooding, recognizing the devastating impacts
78 these phenomena have on societies, economies, and ecosystems. **[IDN: add "In this regard,**
79 **we welcome the milestone decision at COP27 UNFCCC on funding arrangements for**
80 **responding to loss and damage, including a fund to assist developing countries that are**
81 **particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and a transitional**
82 **committee to make recommendations on operationalizing the new funding**
83 **arrangements at COP28 UNFCCC."]**
- 84 b. Combat biodiversity loss in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by
85 urgently reversing ecosystem decline, promoting and strengthening ecosystem-based
86 approaches and nature-based solutions, while mitigating and adapting to climate change and
87 boosting resilience, supporting sustainable food production, promoting One Health and
88 ensuring equitable benefits across economies and societies through robust safeguards and
89 policies for environmental and social protection.
- 90 c. End plastic pollution, as resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14, by fostering innovation, global
91 collaboration, and public-private **[IDN: add "-philanthropy"]** partnerships, **[IDN: add "as well**
92 **as by providing enabling environment and level-playing field for all members of the**
93 **Committee to implement the provisions of the instrument"]**. We call on Member States
94 to continue to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations with a sense of urgency, and
95 seek to reach common ground for a fair and ambitious legally binding outcome of the INC by
96 the end of 2024.
- 97 d. Deploy greater efforts, as well as mobilize and allocate adequate resources towards chemicals
98 safety and management and the [adoption] / [progress toward adoption] / [other relevant
99 language to be inserted subject to outcome of ICCM5] of a new chemicals and waste
100 management framework during the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management
101 (ICCM-5) held in September 2023.

- 102 e. Incorporate environmental considerations into disaster risk management to mitigate the
103 adverse impacts of natural disasters, on human health [IDN: add “, economic growth”] and
104 the environment [IDN: add “itself”] and recommend using a combination of measures to
105 strengthen the resilience to global risks, and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda
106 for Sustainable Development, including actions on the conservation and restoration of
107 ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, pollution reduction and management,
108 as well as actions to transform economic and financial systems and to ensure sustainable
109 ~~production and consumption~~ [IDN: reverse order “consumption and production”] [IDN
110 add “, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities”].
- 111 [IDN: add “e. bis. Strengthened actions need to be implemented to address water
112 pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including through Integrated
113 and Sustainable Water Resources Management and sustainable lake management.”]
- 114 f. Act towards the achievement of ~~gender~~ [IDN: replace w/ “societal”] equality and ~~the~~[IDN:
115 delete] empowerment ~~of all women and girls~~[IDN: delete] by advancing existing international
116 commitments and obligations, ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation,
117 representation ~~and leadership of women~~ [IDN: replace w/ “of marginalized societies”] at
118 all levels of relevant climate change, biodiversity and pollution decision-making, ~~promoting~~
119 ~~gender mainstreaming~~ [IDN: delete] and integration across policies and actions [IDN: reserve
120 for clarification “and the safeguarding of marginalized groups and the most vulnerable”],
121 in our pursuit of inclusive solutions for climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution that leave
122 no one behind.
- 123 9. We will work towards using the potential of digital transformation as a necessary tool for sustainable
124 economic and social behaviour at the global level, ~~bridging~~ [IDN: replace w/ “reducing”] existing
125 digital divides, ~~improving equal access to environmental information~~ [IDN: reserve for
126 deletion] and harnessing emerging technologies for environmental sustainability.
- 127 10. We commit to continue to advocate a whole-of-society approach to a more inclusive and equitable
128 digitalisation that effectively empowers ~~vulnerable~~[IDN: reserve for clarification] and low-
129 income populations, to accelerate research, innovation, education and neighbourhood change, and
130 to move towards the implementation of circular economy models along value chains and just
131 transitions that can accelerate progress towards the achievement of climate change, biodiversity
132 and pollution goals and targets.
- 133 11. We call upon Member States to engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards
134 a rapid mobilization of means of implementation, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the
135 Third International Conference on Financing for Development, while welcoming ongoing efforts to
136 reform the international financial architecture to provide additional funding, ~~in particular~~ [IDN:
137 replace w/ “including”] concessional finance to support low- and middle-income countries tackle
138 and adapt to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- 139 12. We reiterate our recognition of UNEP's role in strategic foresight and horizon scanning as well as
140 in improving the capacities of Member States at all levels to stimulate and encourage long-term
141 advance environmental decision-making bringing the most pressing emerging environmental issues
142 to the attention of Governments. UNEP should therefore ensure that it continues to anticipate trends
143 and risks, bring them to the attention of the world, particularly with the aim of prioritizing scientific
144 research and promoting collective and multi-stakeholder responses to new challenges.
- 145 13. We call on UNEP, as the leading environmental authority within the United Nations, and echoing
146 the UNEP@50 Ministerial Declaration, to intensify its support and assistance to Member States in
147 the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable
148 Development Goals as well as the UNEA outcomes and UNEP' delivery, notably through the UN
149 Country Teams, through access to scientific information, technologies, technical assistance and
150 financial resources.
- 151 14. We look forward to the adoption of a Pact for the Future at the Future Summit in New York in
152 September 2024, and urge all Member States as well as relevant NGOs, Major Groups and

153 stakeholders to advocate for the implementation of the relevant actions set out in this statement
154 during the consultation process to ensure an ambitious outcome that will reinvigorate environmental
155 multilateralism, stimulate the implementation of existing commitments and agree on concrete
156 solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence.

157 15. We therefore request the President of the UN Environment Assembly to transmit this statement as
158 the UN Environment Assembly's contribution to the General Assembly for the Summit of the Future.

159 16. We invite the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements to work with the United
160 Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote effective implementation of the
161 commitments contained in this Declaration.