

**UNEA-6 Zero Draft Ministerial Declaration (May 2023)**

**“Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”**

1. We, the world’s ministers for the environment, have gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, together with representatives of international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the urgent aim of taking effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
2. We recall the Rio+20 Principles, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and previous UNEA Resolutions, and welcome the recommendations of the Secretary General in his report *Our Common Agenda*, and the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
3. We acknowledge with great urgency the systemic threat to **the environment**, security and human development posed by the three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and emphasize the importance of integrated, science-based approaches, **including the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples**, that can strengthen resilience to present and future emerging risks with global solidarity, while advancing the attainment of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all.
4. We welcome the important outcomes of the twenty-seventh conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, including the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund to support vulnerable countries as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the twenty eighth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC including XXX , the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity including its adoption of the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD including the Abidjan Call to act on drought, desertification and land degradation.
5. We also welcome with appreciation the historic adoption of the agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. We also welcome other positive multilateral conferences and resolutions including the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and the 2023 UN Water Conference, the adoption of the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
6. We note with great concern the main findings of the Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s sixth assessment report (AR6) approved in March 2023, and recognise that global greenhouse gas emissions will need to be halved by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5°C. By the current trajectory, as estimated by assessing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) announced by October 2021, it is likely that warming will exceed the 1.5°C target

**Commented [NZ1]:** New Zealand requests the inclusion of “the environment” here. As this is a statement by Environment Ministers, it is appropriate to acknowledge first and foremost the threat to the environment by the triple planetary crisis.

**Commented [NZ2]:** New Zealand requests the removal of “and local communities”.

New Zealand could support either:

a) the removal of “and local communities”,

or

b) the removal of “including the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities” and the inclusion of the language used in the [UNEA-5 Ministerial Declaration](#) at the end of the paragraph: “We further recognize the contribution of indigenous peoples’ expertise and knowledge”.

or

c) a reference to local communities separated from Indigenous Peoples.

**Commented [NZ3]:** New Zealand suggests this paragraph includes reference to ongoing work under multilateral environmental agreements related to chemicals and wastes: i.e Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions, as well as the Montreal Protocol.

**Commented [NZ4]:** New Zealand would prefer that this agreement is noted first given it involved concluding a major multilateral treaty, and so is of a different character to the other matters referred to.

**Commented [NZ5]:** New Zealand suggests this change to ensure an accurate description of the conferences and the resolution, which are not of the same character as the BBNJ multilateral treaty.

during the 21st century, which calls for significant rapid and sustained reductions in all sectors, while ensuring that the level of support provided to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change remains adequate.

7. We are aware that in order to inspire decisive and collective action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution we must reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity.

8. We are strongly committed to urgently addressing our common and global environmental challenges through effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, inter-generational and science- and knowledge-based actions, **and to partnering with Indigenous Peoples and engaging** with all stakeholders including civil society, , , women and youth in all their diversity, persons with disabilities and local communities, the private sector, and academia; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account, the need of developing States, in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs):

- a. Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change in line with the principles of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, including by addressing the urgent need for scaled up action to reduce emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, addressing adaptation and resilience as well as loss and damage. We will spare no effort to protect our communities against natural disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as drought, famine, and flooding, recognizing the devastating impacts these phenomena have on societies, economies, and ecosystems.
- b. Combat biodiversity loss in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently reversing ecosystem decline, promoting and strengthening ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, while mitigating and adapting to climate change and boosting resilience, supporting sustainable food production, promoting One Health and ensuring equitable benefits across economies and societies through robust safeguards and policies for environmental and social protection.
- c. End plastic pollution, as resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14, by fostering innovation, global collaboration, and public-private partnerships. We call on Member States to continue to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations with a sense of urgency, and seek to reach common ground for a fair and ambitious legally binding outcome of the INC by the end of 2024.
- d. Deploy greater efforts, as well as mobilize and allocate adequate resources towards chemicals safety and management and the [adoption] / [progress toward adoption] / [other relevant language to be inserted subject to outcome of ICCM5] of a new chemicals and waste management framework during the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) held in September 2023.

**Commented [NZ6]:** New Zealand suggests this paragraph is strengthened by drawing from the language used in the [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#):  
  
i.e. "Every increment of warming will intensify multiple and concurrent hazards.... All pathways that limit warming to 1.5 degrees, with no or limited overshoot, require rapid, deep and, in most cases, immediate greenhouse gas reductions in all sectors."

**Commented [NZ7]:** Indigenous Peoples have a different status to stakeholders. New Zealand considers them as Partners.

**Commented [NZ8]:** New Zealand notes that youth and women were included in the [UNEA-5 Ministerial Declaration](#) (paragraph 22.) and should be retained. We strongly support the recognition of women in all their diversity. Persons with disabilities are also particularly vulnerable to environmental challenges.

**Commented [NZ9]:** New Zealand prefers this paragraph read: "...taking into account the need of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)."

**Commented [NZ10]:** New Zealand considers this paragraph needs to recognise the urgent need for scaled up action to reduce emissions. It is important to connect the need to reduce emissions and reduce the drivers of climate change with the impacts being faced, as outlined in the [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#).

We note that language to this effect was agreed in the [UNEA-5 Ministerial Declaration](#): "we stress the urgency of enhancing ambition and action in relation to mitigation, adaptation and finance in this critical decade."

**Commented [NZ11]:** New Zealand suggests this text includes a reference to the OEWG towards establishing a Science Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

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- e. Incorporate environmental considerations into disaster risk management to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural disasters, on human health and the environment and recommend using a combination of measures to strengthen the resilience to global risks, and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including actions on the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, pollution reduction and management, as well as actions to transform economic and financial systems and to ensure sustainable production and consumption.
  - f. Act towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by advancing existing international commitments and obligations, ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of relevant climate change, biodiversity and pollution decision-making, promoting gender mainstreaming and integration across policies and actions and the safeguarding of marginalized groups and the most vulnerable, in our pursuit of inclusive solutions for climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution that leave no one behind.
9. We will work towards using the potential of digital transformation as a necessary tool for sustainable economic and social behaviour at the global level, bridging existing digital divides, improving equal access to environmental information and harnessing emerging technologies for environmental sustainability.
10. We commit to continue to advocate a whole-of-society approach to a more inclusive and equitable digitalisation that effectively empowers vulnerable and low-income populations, to accelerate research, innovation, education and neighbourhood change, and to move towards the implementation of circular economy models along value chains and just transitions that can accelerate progress towards the achievement of climate change, biodiversity and pollution goals and targets.
11. We call upon Member States to engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards a rapid mobilization of means of implementation, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, while welcoming ongoing efforts to reform the international financial architecture to provide additional funding, in particular concessional finance to support low- and middle-income countries tackle and adapt to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
12. We reiterate our recognition of UNEP's role in strategic foresight and horizon scanning as well as in improving the capacities of Member States at all levels to stimulate and encourage long-term advance environmental decision-making bringing the most pressing emerging environmental issues to the attention of Governments. UNEP should therefore ensure that it continues to anticipate trends and risks, bring them to the attention of the world, particularly with the aim of prioritizing scientific research and promoting collective and multi-stakeholder responses to new challenges.

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13. We call on UNEP, as the leading environmental authority within the United Nations, and echoing the UNEP@50 Ministerial Declaration, to intensify its support and assistance to Member States in the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the UNEA outcomes and UNEP' delivery, notably through the UN Country Teams, through access to scientific information, technologies, technical assistance and financial resources.
14. We look forward to the adoption of a Pact for the Future at the Future Summit in New York in September 2024, and urge all Member States as well as relevant NGOs, Major Groups and stakeholders to advocate for the implementation of the relevant actions set out in this statement during the consultation process to ensure an ambitious outcome that will reinvigorate environmental multilateralism, stimulate the implementation of existing commitments and agree on concrete solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence.
15. We therefore request the President of the UN Environment Assembly to transmit this statement as the UN Environment Assembly's contribution to the General Assembly for the Summit of the Future.
16. We invite the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements to work with the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote effective implementation of the commitments contained in this Declaration.

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