

Stockholm 19-06-2023

Inputs by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) on the zero draft of the ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) is thankful to the President of UNEA-6 and the members of the Bureau for the opportunity to provide comments to the Zero Draft for the Ministerial Declaration.

Please find below suggestions for additions of specific language to existing paragraphs of the Declaration, and some additional suggestions.

3. We acknowledge with great urgency the systemic threat to 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 and local communities, that can strengthen resilience to present and future emerging risks with global solidarity, while ~~advancing~~ **respecting and securing** the attainment of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all.

Clear acknowledgement of the necessity to address the principal drivers behind the loss of biodiversity and climate change, and to place the economy within the safe operating space of the planetary boundaries, is missing in the draft. Therefore, we suggest the addition of a paragraph 3 bis.

3 bis. In halting and reversing the three interactive planetary crises, we commit to address principal drivers behind climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and pollution, such as unsustainable and unjust management of natural resources, unsustainable food systems, fossil fuel extraction and consumption, unsustainable production and consumption cultures, unsustainable financial flows, in order to place the economy within the safe and just operating space of the planetary boundaries.

Furthermore, a 3 ter paragraph would complement and strengthen 3 bis.

3 ter. In doing so, we will make management of ecosystems and natural resources, production and consumption sustainable and just. This includes to address the unequal material footprint of nations, the absolute reduction of virgin materials to the economy, reuse and recycle more, explore novel consumption models, end our dependency on fossil fuels, as well as make agricultural production and the life cycles of manufactured materials and products safe to human health and the environment with respect to chemicals.

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, **and the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the inter-governmental negotiation committee meetings for an international legally binding instrument on ending plastic pollution, the work to put in place the beyond 2020 instrument, including the adoption of decisions strengthening the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout the life cycle and the prevention of pollution for the protection of human health and the environment.**

We welcome the reference to ocean and water related processes and decisions, yet we believe the critical role of our oceans and aquatic ecosystems for mitigating climate change is weak and should be strengthened. Thus, in line with the political declaration of the 2022 UN Oceans Conference we suggest some additional text.

5. We also welcome with appreciation other important multilateral achievements 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, and the 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. **The political declaration of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference recognizes the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems, including marine ecosystems, to deliver crucial services, including acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts and supporting sustainable livelihoods, including for indigenous peoples and local communities. This means that relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the Framework Convention should consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based action in relevant mandates and workplans, and we also welcome the invitation to the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to hold an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based action.**

Reference to the outcome of the Stockholm+50 Conference should be reaffirmed. This could be in a separate paragraph after paragraph 6.

6 bis. We reaffirm the outcome of the Stockholm +50 summit held in Sweden in 2022, especially recommendation number 1, stating that human well-being should be placed at the center of a healthy planet and prosperity for all, which includes endorsing the ambition of moving away from the overexploitation of ecosystems and shifting to an economic model that serves the common good within planetary boundaries.

Paragraph 8 on actions needs to be strengthened and clarified in several of the existing sub-paragraphs in the zero draft, for example as suggested below.

8 a. Promote Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change in line with the principles of the UNFCCC and ~~its~~ **the** Paris Agreement, including by addressing the urgent need for scaled up action for **mitigation**, 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, **biodiversity and nature's contributions to people. Firm commitments on the phase out of all fossil fuels, and the 1.5 degree target, are crucial to limit the consequences of climate change.**

8 b. Combat biodiversity loss in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently reversing **terrestrial, fresh water and marine 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, **such as agroecology and small-scale artisanal fisheries**, promoting One Health and ensuring **human rights are respected and secured** and equitable benefits across economies and societies **are equitably shared** through robust safeguards and policies for environmental and social protection.

The critical role of economic instruments for changing the trajectory of the economy could be highlighted with an additional sentence in sub-paragraph e to 8.


8 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. **Financial flows from multilateral, as well as domestic, funds must be directed to green and sustainable investments, ending the financing of fossil fuels, harmful subsidies, and of other kinds of environmentally damaging sectors currently supported.**

Circular economy models are mentioned in paragraph 10. With reference to this, we must ensure that material flows in the life cycles of manufactured products are as toxics-free as possible, which requires globally concerted and harmonized actions on transparency and traceability for chemicals in the materials. This could be captured in an additional paragraph to 10.

10 bis. **We recognize that hazardous chemicals must be phased out from material cycles, or when this not immediately possible be strictly restricted, to ensure that circular economy is safe to human health and the environment, which necessitates the establishment of a global transparency and traceability system for the chemical composition of manufactured materials throughout the entire lifecycle, to support informed decisions by all stakeholders along the material and product value chains, and provide equal access to information by all, irrespective of jurisdiction.**

Many thanks for your consideration of our inputs.

With kind regards,


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Swedish Society for Nature Conservation