

**IAAS (International Association of students in Agricultural and related Sciences)
comments on zero draft of the UNEA-6 Ministerial Declaration**

- The Ministerial Declaration recognizes the importance of addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, but **it should explicitly acknowledge the role of agriculture in these challenges**. Agriculture is both affected by and contributes to environmental issues, and as youth in agriculture, we have a crucial role to play in sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices.
- The declaration mentions the need for sustainable food production, but **it should emphasize the importance of promoting agroecological approaches and regenerative farming practices**. These methods prioritize biodiversity conservation, soil health, and ecosystem resilience, while also ensuring food security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- We welcome the declaration's focus on plastics and chemical pollution but **it should address the specific challenges and opportunities related to agricultural inputs. We urge ministers to support the development and adoption of environmentally friendly alternatives to agrochemicals and single-use plastic packaging in the agricultural sector**.
- The declaration's call for incorporating environmental considerations into disaster risk management is crucial. However, **it should specifically address the impact of climate change on agricultural systems and the need for resilient farming practices. Investing in climate-resilient agriculture and providing support to farmers in adapting to changing climatic conditions should be a priority**.
- We appreciate the mention of sustainable production and consumption. However, the declaration **should encourage the promotion of local and sustainable food systems from farm to fork**, which can contribute to **reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing food security, and supporting local farmers and communities**.
- As young people, we urge decision-makers to **recognize the importance of supporting and empowering youth in agriculture**. This includes **providing access to land, finance, training, and technology**, as well as **creating opportunities for youth participation in agricultural decision-making processes at all levels**. By that, we urge all relevant stakeholders to **provide all kinds of support to youth organizations and their umbrella organizations as they continue to shape the future generation of leaders**.
- The declaration should also emphasize the need for **increased investment in agricultural research and innovation**. Supporting research on climate-resilient crops, sustainable farming techniques, and digital technologies in agriculture can drive innovation and help address the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

- We support the commitment to a **more inclusive and equitable digitalization**. However, it should specifically **address the digital divide in rural areas and the importance of ensuring affordable and reliable internet access for farmers**. Digital technologies can enhance agricultural productivity, facilitate access to markets, and enable knowledge sharing among farmers.
- There is a need for **targeted financial and technical assistance for young farmers**. Access to affordable credit, grants, and capacity-building programs is crucial for youth in agriculture to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to environmental conservation.
- In summary, as youth in agriculture, we urge decision-makers to **recognize and prioritize the role of agriculture in addressing environmental challenges**. By providing support, resources, and opportunities for young farmers, we can contribute to sustainable and resilient food systems while safeguarding our environment.