

June 2023

HE Ms. Leila Benali, President of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco.

Mr. Rachid Firadi, Director of Partnership, Communication and Cooperation in the Moroccan Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development.

Dear HE Miss Leila Benali and Mr. Rachid Firadi,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to contribute to the zero draft of the ministerial declaration of UNEA-6.

We appreciate the current draft, which addresses essential issues and actions, and acknowledges the upcoming Summit of the Future. However, we suggest further emphasizing the pollution planetary crisis to achieve a more balanced overview of the three planetary crises mentioned. This can be done by including additional references to global threats related to pollution and highlighting recent achievements in multilateral efforts. Moreover, it is important to consider the role of multilateral environmental agreements in promoting strong and inclusive multilateralism, which involves governments working together to protect biodiversity, manage chemicals and waste, combat climate change, and support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Please consider adding the following wording:

6. a. Recognizing that environmental contamination, encompassing perilous chemicals and waste, significantly contributes to the depletion of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, and acknowledging that the continuous utilization of exceedingly hazardous, non-discriminatory insecticides is leading to a decline in plant and insect populations.

7. We acknowledge the profound interplay elucidated by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in its 'Biodiversity and Climate Change' workshop report, which underscores the intricate interconnection between biodiversity and climate change. We emphasize the need for enhanced synergistic efforts in conserving biodiversity, ameliorating climate change, combating desertification, and restoring degraded land.

8. We discern the intrinsic correlation between the vitality of ecosystems, their capacity for carbon sequestration, and the robustness of wild animal populations. We acknowledge the paramount significance of safeguarding wild animals from overexploitation, both through the regulation of legal trade and the mitigation of wildlife trafficking. Additionally, we recognize the pivotal role that carbon sequestration plays in the mitigation of climate change.

Warmest regards,
Mohammed Javed Qureshi
Chairman
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