

OHCHR Comments on the Zero Draft *Ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly*

The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomes the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-6 and is pleased to suggest the following edits: additions in bold with yellow highlights, deletions in strikethrough with blue highlights, comments in *Italics*.

1. **Sub-title:** “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, **for present and future generations**”

2. **Para 2**

We suggest to add “**UN General Assembly Resolution 76/300**”.

3. **Para 3**

“We acknowledge with great urgency the systemic threat to **security and human development** **peace and security, human rights and development** posed by the three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and emphasize the importance of integrated, **rights based**, science-based approaches, including the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and **local communities** **local knowledge**, that can strengthen resilience **to of** present and future **emerging risks** **generations** with **global solidarity** **international solidarity**, while advancing the **attainment** **realization** of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all.”

4. **Para 5**

(1) In Line 2-3: We suggest that, if UNGA Resolution 76/300 is not mentioned in paragraph 2, it should be referred to here.

(2) In Line 2-3: We suggest that, there are two HRC resolutions on R2HE which should be referenced. The first was Resolution 48/13 (2021). The second was Resolution 52/23 (2023).

5. **Para 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 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 is** adequate.”

6. Para 7

“We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire **ambitious,** decisive and collective action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, **and that no one is left behind,** we surely need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity. **We recognize that adaptation and mitigation actions, that prioritise equity, social justice, climate justice, rights-based approaches, and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development.**” *See IPCC AR6 Summary for Policy Makers, para C.5.2.*

7. Para 8

“We are strongly committed to urgently address our common and global environmental challenges through effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, inter-generational, **rights-based** and science- and knowledge-based actions together with all stakeholders including civil society, citizens, Indigenous Peoples **and,** local communities, the private sector, and academia; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account, the special needs and circumstances of the least greenhouse gas emitters and the most vulnerable **countries,** in particular, **Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), African States, and developing middle-income countries,** **and ensure that everyone, particularly those individuals, groups and peoples in vulnerable situations have access to means of adaptation to enjoy lives with dignity”**

8. Para 8(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 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, and human rights.**”

9. Para 8(b)

“**e**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, **and rights-based approaches**, 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.” *Please note that rights-based approaches are included in the considerations for implementation of the GBF.*

10. Para 8(c)

“End plastic pollution, as resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14, by fostering innovation, **global collaboration, and public-private partnerships** **international cooperation, accountability and just transition**. 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.”

11. Para 8(e)

“Incorporate environmental considerations into disaster risk management to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural disasters, **climate change related disasters**, on human health, **human rights** 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.”

12. Para 8(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~~ **the rights of individuals, groups and peoples and vulnerable situations**, in our pursuit of inclusive solutions for climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution that leave no one behind.”

13. Para 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, **guarantee the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for current and future generations**, and agree on concrete solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence.”