

Zero draft, May 2023

**Ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**  
**“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),<sup>7</sup> 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 security and human development posed by the ~~triple~~ planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and emphasize the importance of integrated, science-based approaches informed by the latest and best available evidence, such as the science examined in the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and including the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, that can strengthen resilience to present and future emerging risks with global solidarity, and recalling UN General Assembly’s resolution 76/300 on 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 ~~C~~onference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, including the decision to establish new funding arrangements, including a fund, for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, 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 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, and the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD including the Abidjan Call to act on drought, desertification and land degradation [and of a new chemicals and waste management framework [agreed] during the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) held in September 2023.]
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.
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 peak immediately, roughly halve ~~be halved~~ by 2030, reduce to 60 percent by 2035 and reach net zero CO2 by 2050 to limit global warming to 1.5°C. We further note that risks and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages from

~~climate change will escalate with every increment of global warming and are higher. By the current trajectory, as estimated by assessing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) announced up to by October 2021, it is likely that for global warming will exceed the of 1.5°C than at present, and even higher at 2°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 adequate.~~

7. We are aware that in order to ~~revitalize the multilateral system and~~ inspire decisive and collective action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution we ~~surely~~ need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity.

8. We are strongly committed to urgently address our common and global environmental challenges through effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, inter-generational and science- and knowledge-based actions together with all stakeholders including civil society, citizens, women and girls, youth, 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, in particular, ~~Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), African States, and developing middle-income countries:~~

- a. Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change in line with the principles of the UNFCCC and ~~the goals of the 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.
- b. ~~combat~~ Halt and reverse biodiversity loss in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently reversing ecosystem decline and increasing protected areas, and conserving species, promoting and strengthening nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, while mitigating and adapting to climate change and boosting resilience, supporting sustainable food production, promoting a One Health approach and ensuring equitable benefits across economies and societies through robust safeguards and policies for environmental and social protection and revise -our National Biodiversity strategies and Action Plans and produce national targets templates in time for a global analysis to be considered at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference to the Parties.
- c. End plastic pollution, as ~~set-out~~ resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic 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.~~

e. Incorporate environmental considerations into disaster risk management to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural disasters, on human, animal and plant 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~~ Promote 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 decision making in relation to relevant climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution ~~decision making~~, promoting gender mainstreaming and integration across policies and actions, including by accumulating further knowledge of the impacts of the triple planetary crisis on women and girls and through the collection and use of more gender-disaggregated data, 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 resource efficient 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 [providing/supporting] 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.

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, including through, but not limited to, the Fifth

Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law and UNEP's 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 Summit of the Future Summit~~ in New York in September 2024 as an opportunity to further advance our collective environmental commitments, ~~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 and administrative 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