



Ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Comments of Saudi Arabia

#	
Para 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 [SAU Add: to achieve Sustainable Development Goals]
Para 2	We recall the Rio+20 Principles [SAU Replace: We reaffirm the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development] , the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), [SAU delete: and previous UNEA Resolutions] and previous UNEA Resolutions, and [SAU Replace welcome with take notes] welcome the recommendations of the Secretary General in his report Our Common Agenda, and the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
Para 3	We [SAU Replace acknowledge with recognize] acknowledge with [SAU Delete: great urgency] great urgency the systemic [SAU Replace threat with concern] 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 , and noting the progress work of UNEA resolution 5/8 on Science policy panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention, while advancing the attainment of the [SAU Delete: human right] human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all.
Para 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 Including [SAU Add: G20 initiative on land degradation under Saudi Arabia Presidency and] the Abidjan Call to act on drought, desertification and land degradation. [SAU Add: A new paragraph emphasizing the role of the framework in conserving biodiversity (tackling biodiversity loss crisis)]
Para 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.
Para 6	We note with [SAU delete: with great concern] 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 [SAU Delete: will need to be halved by 2030 to limit



	<p>global warming to 1.5 C] [SAU Alt: to keep 1.5 degrees within reach] 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 [SAU Delete: 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] [SAU Alt: alignments with Paris Agreement taking into account different national circumstances, implementation actions including but not limited to adopting and implementing domestic measures, informed by the best available science for effective climate action and taking into account different national circumstances.]</p> <p>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 adequate.</p>
<p>Para 7</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Para 8</p>	<p>We are [SAU Delete: strongly] strongly committed to [SAU Delete: urgently] urgently address [SAU Add: and further meaningful and inclusive engagement with the whole society,] [SAU Delete: our common and global environmental challenges through effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, inter-generational and science- and knowledge-based actions together with all stakeholders] 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, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector, and academia [SAU Add: women, youth and children, persons with disabilities and people invulnerable situation as appropriate]; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account, the special needs and [SAU Add: national] circumstances [SAU Add: .] [SAU delete: 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:] [SAU Alt: to reduce vulnerability to climate change and to enhance adaptive capacity] 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:</p>
<p>Para 8 (a.)</p>	<p>Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change [SAU Add: mitigation and adaptation] in line with [SAU replace the principles with the goals and objectives] the principles of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, including by addressing the urgent need for scaled up action for adaptation and resilience as well as loss and damage. We will spare no effort to protect our communities against natural disasters [SAU replace induced or exacerbated with associated] induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as drought, famine, and flooding, [SAU delete: recognizing the devastating impacts these phenomena have on societies, economies, and ecosystems]</p>



	[SAU Add: .] recognizing the devastating impacts these phenomena have on societies, economies, and ecosystems
Para 8 (B.)	Combat biodiversity loss in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently reversing ecosystem [SAU replace decline by degradation] 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, promoting One Health and ensuring equitable benefits across economies and societies through robust safeguards and policies for environmental and social protection.
Para 8 (C.)	End plastic pollution, as resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14, 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.
Para 8 (d.)	Safety and management [SAU Add: taking into account national circumstances and capabilities]
Para 8 (e.)	Incorporate [SAU Replace environmental considerations with risk management including] environmental considerations [SAU delete: into] into disaster risk [SAU replace management with reduction] management to mitigate [SAU Add: adapt and enhance] the adverse impacts of natural disasters, [SAU Add: .] [SAU Delete: on human health and the environment] on human health and the environment and recommend using a [SAU Replace combination of measures with voluntary measures] combination of measures to strengthen the resilience to global risks, and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [SAU Add: and its Sustainable Development Goals] , including [SAU Delete: actions on] 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 [SAU Add: through circular economy and other circulatory]
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 [SAU replace marginalized groups with: indigenous people and local communities] and the most vulnerable, , in our pursuit of inclusive solutions for climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution that leave no one behind.
[SAU Add: (8 g.) Para 8	[SAU Add: Strengthen the efforts to achieve land degradation neutrality and to increase resilience of communities and ecosystems to drought. Encourage all related initiatives, including the G20 initiative on land degradation.]
[SAU Add: (8 h.) Para 8	[SAU Add: Enhance conservation and wise use of biodiversity and ecosystem in high seas in line with the agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, by urgently taking effective, inclusive and sustainable (EIS) actions in collaboration with International and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other stakeholders.]



Para9	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.
Para 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 [SAU replace circular economy with circular] 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.
Para 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 [SAU replace international financial architecture with developed countries] international financial architecture to provide additional funding, in particular concessional finance to support [SAU replace low- and middle-income with developing countries] low- and middle-income countries tackle and adapt to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
Para 12	We reiterate our recognition of UNEP's role in 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 [SAU replace research with based evidence] research and promoting collective and multi-stakeholder responses to new challenges.
Para 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 for Sustainable Development as well as the UNEA outcomes and UNEP' delivery, notably through the UN Country Teams, through access to scientific information, technologies, technical assistance and financial resources.
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 and agree on concrete solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence.
Para 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.



Para 16	We invite the governing 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.
---------	---