

Name of Member States / organization	Colombia
Date	15 September 2023

First draft, August 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, **from 26 February to 1 March 2024**, 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 **the three planetary environmental crises** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
2. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio **Declaration** on Environment and Development, the 2030 **Agenda** for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we 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 threats posed by the three planetary **environmental** crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution to sustainable development **and their impacts on human and environmental health, well-being and security**.
4. We emphasize the importance of integrated, science-based approaches, **informed by the latest and best available evidence**, as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to strengthen resilience to present and future emerging challenges, promote global solidarity and advance **the realization of the UN General Assembly’s resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment**.
5. We welcome the important outcomes of the twenty-seventh **session** of the conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27), including commitments to establish **new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including with a focus on addressing** Loss and Damage as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan; the twenty eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (**COP 28**) including XXX; the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and 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 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the [Abidjan Call](#) to act on drought, desertification and land degradation; **as well as the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) including the [agreement] on a new chemicals and waste management framework beyond 2020.**

Colombia: Kindly review whether the reference to ICCM-5 outcomes is warranted under this paragraph, considering that there is a more elaborate reference to the same process in OP9.f
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6. We also welcome with appreciation other **recent**, important multilateral achievements, including 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 (BBNJ), the outcomes of [2022 UN Ocean Conference](#) and the 2023 UN Water Conference **and the high-level meeting on the mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.
7. We note with great concern the main findings of the Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) [Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#) and recognise that, **to limit global warming to 1.5°C, global greenhouse gas emissions must be rapidly and progressively reduced by 43% by 2030, below 2019 levels and to 60% by 2035 before ultimately reaching net zero by 2050**. By the current trajectory, it is likely that warming will exceed the 1.5°C target during the 21st century, which calls for significant, rapid and sustained emissions reductions in all sectors, especially **those with large share and growth in gross GHG emissions**, while ensuring that the level of support provided to developing countries and vulnerable regions to mitigate and adapt to climate change **is significantly raised to adequate levels**.
8. We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive and collective action to tackle the **three planetary environmental crises** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, **as well as other related crises of desertification, land degradation and drought**, we urgently need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity and **to provide new, additional, and adequate means of implementation**.

***New Paragraph [COL: 8.bis. We call for an urgent reform of the global financial architecture to better respond to the environmental crises and the increasing impacts of climate change that poses significant challenges to developing countries who are either at high risk or already in debt distress, to create the fiscal space for developing countries to finance climate action and to fulfil the realization of the SDGs.]***

***Moved from OP12: 8.ter. We call upon Member States, International Financial Institutions, international development banks, private foundations and funds and other actors to promote further synergies and coherence in financing action to address the three environmental planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, aligning relevant policy and regulatory measures with international goals and targets., We will engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards a rapid mobilization of accessible 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, including reshaping economic governance models and decision-making to better account for the environment in measuring progress beyond GDP.***

**Colombia: In order to have a more coherent reading of the Declaration, Colombia suggests moving OP12 under our proposed new paragraph OP8.bis.**

9. We are strongly committed to urgently address the challenges before us through effective, inclusive sustainable transformative, **gender-responsive, intra- and inter-generational** and science- and knowledge-based actions together with all relevant actors and partners including civil society, academia and **philanthropies**, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private and public sectors, as well **all women and girls, children and youth, people with disabilities and those at risk of being left furthest behind**; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account **the Rio Principles, including the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities**, as well as the special needs and circumstances of vulnerable regions and the specific challenges faced by developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS):

**Colombia: Colombia, in line with its Feminist Foreign Policy, and its interest in continuing to advance in matters of gender equality and women's empowerment, is increasingly advancing language that aims to recognize and incorporate peasant women, indigenous**

women, NARP women (black, afro, raizales, and palenqueras), and LBT people (lesbians, bisexual and trans), such as “women in all their diversity” or “all women”.

In the process of establishing the SPP and adopting the new SAICM, the scope of the concept of vulnerable population groups, including women, girls, young people and people with disabilities, has been discussed.

Taking into account the nature of the literals listed in paragraph 9, it is relevant to consider the Rio principles in their entirety, since apart from CBDR there are others that apply to the problems, solutions and processes referenced, including:

Principle 3: Intergenerational approach

Principle 6: Special needs and situation of developing countries

Principle 8: Reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption

Principle 9: Capacity building and technology transfer

Principle 10: Participation, access to information and access to environmental justice

Principle 13: Legal tools on liability and compensation for environmental damage

Principle 14: Non-transfer of damages

Principle 15: Precautionary principle/approach

Principle 16: The polluter pays principle

Principle 20: Women's participation

Principle 21: Youth participation

Principle 22: Participation of Indigenous Peoples

- a. Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change, in line with the goals and **objectives** of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, **including efforts to set higher ambition in the next round of NDCs in order to reduce global GHG emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, and** towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and keeping a limit of 1.5°C temperature rise within reach, including by addressing the urgent need for scaled up action for mitigation, adaptation and resilience. We will prioritise equity and social justice to achieve more sustainable outcomes and co-benefits and reduce trade-offs while sparing no effort to advance climate resilient development and protect our communities against disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as **drought, heavy rains, heatwaves**, famine, and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.

**Colombia: Reference to pre2030 ambition is missing in the efforts. Refence suggested is from IPCC AR6. We consider valuable to accelerate action and support to make progress in this critical decade, particularly toward COP28 and the expected outcomes under the first Global Stocktake.**

- b. **Halt and reverse** biodiversity loss **by 2030** in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently reversing ecosystem decline, **conserving at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas and marine coastal areas and ensuring that at least 30% of the world’s degraded ecosystems are under restoration.** We will do so by accelerating the implementation of strengthened national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the alignment of national targets with the GBF, whilst **driving a transition to nature-positive economies which mainstreams biodiversity in all sectors.** We will promote nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, support the **conservation and** sustainable use of biodiversity while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of **the utilization of genetic resources**, including **digital sequence information and** traditional knowledge.

**Colombia: Decision 9 of COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes that the benefits derived from the use of Digital Sequence Information must be shared fairly and equitably. Similarly, the text of the instrument on marine biodiversity in areas beyond**

**national jurisdiction (BBNJ) recognizes this fair and equitable sharing of benefits in the case of digital information on sequences of marine genetic resources.**

- c. **Cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition that seeks to achieve an energy-secure future for all, through renewable energies, while respecting national needs and priorities, and define clear actions to address climate change, maximizing on the social and economic opportunities of climate action and promoting effective dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders.**

**Colombia: Emphasize that the just energy transition must be based on the implementation of renewable energies.**

- d. Develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, as resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14. We call on all 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, effective and ambitious legally binding outcome of the INC by the end of 2024.
  - e. **[Enhance broader cooperation on air pollution, recognizing that air pollution is the leading environmental risk factor for human health, contributes to negative impacts on ecosystems, does not stop at national borders and can impact regions in different ways and that addressing air pollution results in multiple benefits to the economy, ecosystems, climate and human health.]**
  - f. Deploy greater efforts, including mobilizing and allocating adequate resources, for the sound management of chemicals and waste to reduce negative health and environmental impacts, and the [implementation] [adoption] [progress toward adoption] [other relevant language to be inserted subject to outcome of ICCM5] of [a new chemicals and waste management framework] [name of new framework to be inserted] following the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) held in September 2023. We also strongly support the process to establish a new Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, **as per UNEA Resolution 5/8**, and we call on Member States to engage constructively in its ongoing negotiations towards completion by the end of 2024.
  - g. Incorporate climate, biodiversity and pollution considerations into disaster risk management policies and actions to mitigate and prevent the adverse impacts of natural and human-made hazards on human health and the environment, strengthen the resilience to global risks **and shocks and promote a sustainable and inclusive recovery to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development...**
  - h. **Promote gender equity** and the empowerment of all women and girls, in line with existing international commitments and obligations, to ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of environmental decision-making, and promote the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data and statistics across all policies and actions, in our pursuit of inclusive solutions for the three environmental planetary crises to leave no one behind.
10. We will leverage digital transformations as an enabling tool to support sustainable economies and societies through bridging existing digital divides, improving equal access to environmental information and harnessing emerging technologies for environmental sustainability, while ensuring that digitalization remains inclusive, equitable and sustainable.
11. We commit to continue to advocate for a whole-of-society approach that can effectively empower societies at large, and particularly vulnerable and low-income populations, to accelerate research, innovation, education and behavioural change, **facilitate their just transition to sustainable consumption and production** and move towards the implementation of circular economy models

along value chains and sustainable lifestyles, in line with the 10 YFP Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023-2030.

- ~~12. We call upon Member States, International Financial Institutions, international development banks, private foundations and funds and other actors to promote further synergies and coherence in financing action to address the three environmental planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, aligning relevant policy and regulatory measures with international goals and targets. We will engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards a rapid mobilization of accessible 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, including reshaping economic governance models and decision-making to better account for the environment in measuring progress beyond GDP.~~

**Colombia: In order to have a more coherent reading of the Declaration, Colombia suggests moving OP12 under our proposed new paragraph OP8.bis.**

13. We reiterate our recognition of UNEP's role in strengthening the science-policy interface and to undertake strategic foresight and horizon scanning, in collaboration with existing science-policy platforms to improve the capacities of Member States and stakeholders at all levels to prioritize scientific research and stimulate and encourage decision making and actions that can anticipate trends and risks, and prevent and respond to emerging and future environmental issues.
14. We note the **increasing necessity** and catalytic role of UNEP and its Regional Offices in strengthening regional cooperation **to tackle context-specific environmental challenges**, including through the Regional Ministerial fora **and UNEP Regional Seas Programme, to tackle context-specific environmental challenges**. We also recognize the increasing demand for environmental support at the country level and UNEP's engagement with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to support the environmental dimension of sustainable development in Common Country Analyses and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and invite the strengthening of UNEP's role within the UN Development System at the regional and country level, with an increase in resources, including from the Regular Budget.

**Colombia: The reference to the Regional Seas Program of the United Nations Environment Programme is relevant as it provides support for regional sea conventions and action plans. In the case of Colombia, the relevant agreement is the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Greater Caribbean, which constitutes an important instrument that contributes to the implementation of SDG 14 in this subregion that extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Guyanese shield.**

15. 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, including at the country level, in the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the UNEA outcomes.
16. We look forward to the adoption of a Pact for the Future at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, as an opportunity to further advance our collective environmental commitments, urge all Member States as well as relevant NGOs, Major Groups and stakeholders, UNEP, MEAs and other relevant international organisations to advocate for the implementation of the relevant actions set out in this statement during the consultation process, and to ensure an ambitious outcome that will reinvigorate environmental multilateralism, stimulate the implementation of existing commitments, strengthen synergies between the work and implementation of the MEAs and agree on concrete solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence. **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.**

17. 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.