

<i>Name of Member States / organization</i>	<i>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</i>
<i>Date</i>	<i>13 September 2023</i>

First Draft of UNEA-6 Ministerial Declaration

WWF Recommendations

Key Recommendations

WWF welcomes the first draft of the UNEA-6 Ministerial Declaration and commends the President of UNEA-6 and Members for the draft which serves as a good basis for an ambitious political outcome at UNEA-6.

WWF urges Member States to match the ambition of the Ministerial Declaration with the ambition established in recent intergovernmental agreements, notably the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In particular, we call on UNEA-6 to address **the entire range of existing and emerging drivers associated with the three planetary environmental crises** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

WWF strongly encourages Parties to include language:

1. Committing Member States to pursue strong outcomes on preventive strategies, especially the One Health approach, in the negotiations of a global instrument to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response
2. Strengthening the whole-of-government approach, alongside the whole-of-society approach, as one of the measures to ensure coherent, effective, inclusive and sustainable actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution at national level
3. Signalling Member State commitment to multilateral collaboration to address crime and corruption related drivers of the three planetary crises and its effect on the environment, people and human rights.

WWF welcomes the first draft of the UNEA- 6 Ministerial Declaration released on 16th August and **calls on Member States to consider the inclusion of the following proposed text changes** in the final draft of the Declaration.

New text proposed by WWF is in **red, bold and underlined**.
Text that WWF proposes to delete is ~~in strike through~~.

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.**

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.**

7.bis We note that in order to achieve climate and biodiversity objectives and the SDGs additional efforts are required for a rapid transformation toward sustainable production and consumption to return within planetary boundaries, including by scaling up circularity in all sectors and at all 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.**

9. We are strongly committed to urgently address the challenges before us through effective, inclusive sustainable transformative, **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 **women and girls, children and youth and those at risk of being left furthest behind**; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account **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):

a. Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change, in line with the goals and **objectives** of the UNFCCC and **the** Paris Agreement, 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, wildfires**, famine, and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.

b. **Halt and reverse** biodiversity loss **by 2030** in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently reversing ecosystem **loss and** decline, **halting species loss, conserving effectively and equitably** at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas and marine **and** coastal areas and ensuring that at least 30% of the world's degraded ecosystems are under restoration **as well as addressing invasive alien species and all direct drivers of biodiversity loss - land and sea use change , overexploitation , pollution and climate change - as well as the main underlying driver: the global footprint of production and consumption**. 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 inclusive nature-positive economies which mainstreams biodiversity in all sectors**. We will promote nature-based solutions and **ecosystem-based approaches**, support the sustainable use of biodiversity while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of **the utilization of genetic resources and associated** including traditional knowledge.

c. **Cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition that seeks to achieve an energy-secure future for all, 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.**

d. Develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution **based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic**, 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 **commit to establish the necessary common global rules** ~~seek to reach common ground for a fair, effective and~~ **for an** ambitious, **just and effective** legally binding **outcome** of the INC by the end of 2024, **that includes the necessary common binding rules to eliminate problematic and avoidable plastic products, polymers and chemicals of concern, ensure safe plastics circularity through harmonized product design and environmentally sound waste management, supported by equally ambitious means of implementation.**

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 **of all communities, especially those disproportionately affected by** ~~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 women's rights over land and resources and** 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.

h bis. Make use of all instruments at our disposal to tackle illicit trafficking in wildlife and other crimes that affect the environment, and ensure full protection of the rights of environmental human rights defenders

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.

10 bis. We invite Member States, relevant United Nations entities and other international organisations to strengthen partnerships and cooperation to promote a holistic approach to address health and environmental aspects of wildlife trade and other crimes that affect the environment using holistic, all-hazard and One Health approaches, including through strengthened collaboration among the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme.

11. We commit to **strengthen** ~~continue to advocate for a~~ **whole-of-government** and 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 by halving the global footprint of production and consumption in a fair and equitable manner,** and moving 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 ~~and~~ relevant policy and regulatory measures with international **climate and biodiversity** goals and targets. We will engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards a rapid **and substantial increase** ~~mobilisation~~ of accessible means of implementation **to achieve climate and biodiversity commitments,** in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, while welcoming ongoing efforts to ~~reform~~ **transform** the international financial architecture^[A2], **including reshaping economic governance models and decision-making to better account for the environment and human wellbeing in measuring progress beyond GDP.**

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, including through the Regional Ministerial fora, 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.

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.
