

<i>Name of Member States / organization</i>	CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH
<i>Date</i>	29-082023

GENERAL INPUT

The Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research commends global environmental leaders for the opportunity given to observers and other stakeholders to contribute to the Ministerial Declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, aspects of the inputs of Observers integrated into the first Draft and the opportunity to continue to pool together ideas and strategies in order to identify effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

We commend the acknowledgement of the great urgency needed to address the systemic threat to security and human development posed by the three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and the recognition of the relevance of the findings of the IPCC sixth assessment report (AR6), the outcomes of the 27th conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund to support vulnerable countries, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan.

We also commend your reference and recognition of the relevance of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Abidjan Call to act on drought, desertification and land degradation, the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, 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, 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 and other important multilateral achievements.

We welcome your strong commitment to a multi stakeholder and multidisciplinary approach in addressing the triple planetary crisis in a manner that is 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.

We welcome the actions you have agreed to take subject to inclusion of our changes which are visible using tract change and call for the following additional action:

DIRECT EDITS/LANGUAGE INCLUSION

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 [Stockholm Declaration](#), 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 and the need for** [Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields](#).
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, [the 2023 High Seas Treaty](#) 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.**

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**, famine, and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development by effective action including channelling adequate resources and providing support for the development and strengthening of needed capacity which would include policy and legislative capacity, institutional capacity, monitoring and reporting, human resource and leadership capacity, financing capacity and capacity to generate, utilize information, knowledge and technological capacity).

a.b.-

b.c. **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 sustainable use of biodiversity while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of **the utilization of genetic resources**, including traditional knowledge, .

c.d. **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.e. 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 while putting into perspective the need to bridging existing identified gaps in the implementation of international environmental laws particularly those related to liability for transboundary movement of plastic waste and the need to cover the field in other to avoid fragmentation in laws related to plastic regulation..

e.f. **[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.g. 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.h. 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...**

i. **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.

j. **Recognize the threat of Nitrogen to food systems, health and the environment and continue to support and invest in the sustainable management of Nitrogen including supporting and investing in precision agriculture and use of Precision technologies for gathering information about spatial and temporal differences within the field in order to match inputs to site-specific field conditions in order to ensure sustainable food systems.**

h.k.

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.**
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.

CALL FOR FURTHER ACCELERATED ACTION

- Adopt an integrated framework with targets that will enhance opportunities to improve the lives of 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 many of whom depend on biodiversity and ecosystem services for their survival.
- Integrate an action plan and budget that addressed how strategic cross-cutting issues such as zoonotic diseases, engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities as well as pathways to maximize the benefits these communities derive from legal and sustainable trade in wild species for their livelihoods can be addressed. .
- Ensure alignment, synergies and comprehensiveness in financing, developing and implementing of identified multilateral mechanisms mentioned and identify priority actions from previous UNEA that requires follow-up from Member States and potential gaps and problems in implementation that need to be addressed or strengthened, by financial resources, political will and strong national legislature and policymaking.
- Promote multilateralism and collaboration ensuring that the Ministerial Declaration provides consensual solutions to current and projected global challenges including the triple planetary crisis, guaranteeing global stability and sustainable development.
- Address the issues of climate related displacements including internal displacements.

- Commit to and Explore new development strategies and plans that address effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in line with the Agenda 2030.
- Strengthen the global architecture for peace, security and sustainable financing of the integration of goal 16 into environmental policy and plan of action.
- Align plan of action for implementing of commitments with the sustainable development goals and international Human Rights obligations and Objective.
- National Reports including NDCs should reflect national priorities and targets for sustainable development and their relation to Human Rights obligations.
- Methodology for review of progress for implementation of Resolutions and Decisions should be founded on human rights impact assessment and major human rights principle including transparency, participation and accountability.
- Institutional mechanisms for implementation must include the role of National Human rights institutions, human rights NGOs and all existing environmental institutions and mechanisms.

Means of implementation including plans for financing, data collection should align with objectives of promoting human rights as the world charts a new sustainable path to achieve financing of combat/reversing biodiversity loss, urgently reversing ecosystem decline, promoting and strengthening ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, mitigating and adapting to climate change, boosting resilience, supporting sustainable food production, promoting One Health and ensuring equitable benefits across economies and societies through robust safeguards and policies for environmental protection.