



Name of Member States / organization	KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
Date	.. _ .. _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”**

PARAGRAPH	
Para 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 [SAU DEL: three planetary] environmental crises [SAU DEL: of] [SAU ADD: including] climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
Para 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 [SAU DEL: welcome the recommendations] [SAU REP: takes note] of the Secretary General in his report Our Common Agenda and the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
Para 3.	We acknowledge with great urgency the systemic threats posed by the [SAU DEL: three planetary] environmental crises [SAU DEL: of] [SAU ADD: including] climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution to sustainable development and their impacts on human and environmental health, well-being and [SAU ADD: water and food] security.



Para 4.	We emphasize the importance of [SAU DEL: integrated,] science-based approaches [SAU ADD: in a balanced and integrated manner] , informed by the latest and best available evidence [SAU ADD: takes into account the environmental, social and economic aspects] , as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples [SAU DEL: local communities] [SAU REP: Local Communities (IPLCs)] , to strengthen resilience to present and future emerging challenges, promote global solidarity and [SAU DEL: advance the realization of] [SAU REP: underscore] the UN General Assembly’s resolution 76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.
Para 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, [SAU DEL: including] with a focus on addressing Loss and Damage as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan [SAU ADD: Plan which includes the decision to create the Work Programme on Just Transition Pathways] ; 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 [SAU ADD: COP15]), [SAU ADD: and its outcome on continuing the efforts to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality] 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.
Para 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.
Para 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. [SAU DEL: 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.] [SAU ADD: Implementing accelerated and equitable action in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts is critical for sustainable development to ensure addressing the socio-economic impacts of climate policies, particularly in developing countries].



Para 8.	We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive and collective action to tackle the [SAU DEL: three planetary] environmental crises [SAU DEL: of] [SAU ADD: including] 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 [SAU ADD: support to developing countries] .
Para 9.	[SAU ADD: We acknowledge the global and regional efforts being made to reduce the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, including the Middle East Green Initiative to restore 200 million hectares of degraded land, Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030, creation of the One Trillion Tree initiative platform to provide support to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.]
Para 10.	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 [SAU ADD: the support of developed countries and the engagement with relevant actors] [SAU DEL: all relevant actors and partners] including civil society, academia and philanthropies [SAU ADD:;] Indigenous Peoples and [SAU DEL: local communities] [SAU REP: Local Communities (IPLCs)] , [SAU ADD: industry] the private and public sectors, as well women and girls, children and youth and [SAU DEL: those at risk of being left furthest behind] [SAU REP: leaving no one behind] ; and we therefore decide to take the following actions, [SAU DEL: taking into account] [SAU REP: based on] the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, [SAU ADD: historical responsibility] as well as the special needs and circumstances of vulnerable regions [SAU ADD: and countries] and the specific challenges faced by developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), [SAU ADD: Arab States] Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS [SAU ADD:]):
Para 10 (a)	Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change, in line with the [SAU ADD: -] goals and objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, [SAU DEL: 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 [SAU ADD: , financing] and resilience. We will prioritise equity and social justice to achieve more sustainable outcomes and co-benefits and reduce trade-offs while sparing [SAU DEL: 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, [SAU ADD: displacement,] and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.



<p>Para 10 (b)</p>	<p>Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by [SAU ADD: its] 2030 [SAU ADD: mission] in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework [SAU ADD: (GBF)], by [SAU DEL: 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.] [SAU REP: We reiterate, in line with the KMGBF, the commitments, by 2030, to ensure that at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration and to ensure and enable that at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas are effectively conserved and managed], reversing ecosystem decline, conserving at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas and marine [SAU ADD: and] coastal areas and ensuring that at least 30% of the world's degraded ecosystems are under [SAU ADD: effective] restoration. We will do so by [SAU DEL: accelerating the implementation of strengthened national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the alignment of national targets with the GBF] [SAU REP: By revising, updating and submitting their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)], whilst driving a transition to nature-positive economies which mainstreams biodiversity [SAU ADD: values] in all sectors. We will promote nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches [SAU ADD: and other management and conservation approaches can provide co-benefit], support the sustainable use of biodiversity while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, [SAU ADD: and digital sequence information on genetic resources,] including traditional knowledge. [SAU ADD: We will also act to substantially increase the level of financial resources from all sources in accordance with article 20 of the convention in order to progressively close the biodiversity finance gap.]</p>
<p>Para [SAU ADD: 10 (c)]</p>	<p>[SAU ADD: Initiate dialogue of all stakeholders to develop a vision and global goals beyond 2030 to overcome crises of desertification, land degradation and drought during 16th Session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.]</p>
<p>Para 10 (d)</p>	<p>[SAU DEL: 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.]</p>
<p>Para 10 (e)</p>	<p>Develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, as resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14. [SAU DEL: 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] [SAU ADD: We further commit to play a constructive and inclusive role in the negotiations, with the ambition of completing the work by the</p>



	end of 2024, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as well as national circumstances and capabilities.]
Para [SAU ADD: 10 (f)]	[SAU ADD: Develop an international instrument to face the negative effects on drought, which causes loss of lives, damage, famines and displacement, and to adopt a proactive approach to overcome this challenge and increase communities and ecosystems resilience to it.]
Para 10 (g)	[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.]
Para 10 (h)	Deploy greater efforts, including mobilizing and allocating adequate resources [SAU ADD: and the means of implementation to the developing countries], for the sound management of chemicals and waste to reduce negative [SAU ADD: human] 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.



Para 10 (i)	<p>Incorporate climate [SAU ADD: mitigation and adaption], biodiversity and pollution considerations into disaster risk management [SAU DEL: policies and] [SAU ADD: national] actions to mitigate and prevent the adverse impacts [SAU DEL: of natural and human-made hazards on human health] [SAU REP: on natural, 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...</p>
Para 10 (j)	<p>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 [SAU DEL: three] environmental [SAU DEL: planetary] crises to leave no one behind.</p>
Para 11.	<p>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. [SAU ADD: Ensuring adequate capacity building to developing countries and promote research and innovation for development.]</p>
Para 12.	<p>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 [SAU ADD: positive] behavioural change, facilitate their just transition to sustainable consumption and production and move towards the implementation of [SAU DEL: circular economy models] [SAU REP: circular approaches] along value chains and sustainable lifestyles, in line with the [SAU DEL: , in line with the 10 YFP Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023-2030].</p>



<p>Para 13.</p>	<p>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 [SAU DEL: three planetary] environmental crises [SAU DEL: of] [SAU ADD: including] climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, [SAU DEL: 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 [SAU ADD: support to developing countries], 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.</p>
<p>[SAU DEL: PARA 14]</p>	<p>[SAU DEL: 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.]</p>
<p>Para 15.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Para 16.</p>	<p>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) [SAU ADD: and adequate means of implementation support to developing countries], the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the UNEA outcomes.</p>



Para 17.	<p>[SAU DEL: We look forward to the adoption] [SAU REP: We take note] 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.</p>
Para 18.	<p>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.</p>