

**Statement on Behalf of the Friends of the Resolution on Animal Welfare,  
Environment, and Sustainable Development Nexus at the 10<sup>th</sup> United  
Nations Environment Program Annual Sub-Committee Meeting**

**23/4 November 2023**

1. Good morning, Chair and Dear Colleagues.
2. I am making this statement on behalf of the Friends of the Resolution established to facilitate the implementation of the Animal Welfare, Environment, and Sustainable Development Nexus resolution. The Friends of the Resolution is an open-ended working group comprised of 31 member states.
3. Integrating animals into the global policy agenda has, in recent years, gained momentum with various stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental bodies, civil society organizations, research organizations, and academia, bringing the dialogues to the forefront at national, regional, and international fora. This is due to the understanding that animals are part of nature, which humans should live in harmony with, and their welfare is paramount for achieving sustainable development and related goals.
4. Accordingly, during the Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA – 5), Member States adopted the Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development – Nexus resolution (**UNEP/EA.5/1**).
5. The resolution requests UNEP to produce a report in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the World Organization for Animal Health, as well as with the One Health High-Level Expert Panel, prepare a summary of the findings for consideration by Member States, and submit the report for peer review by Member States.
6. In support of this resolution, an Open-Ended Friends of the Resolution Working (FOR) was established in September 2022 to assist in implementing the resolution. The FOR met several times in Kenya, Botswana, and most recently

in Ethiopia at the margins of the 19<sup>th</sup> African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

7. During the last meeting with UNEP, the Friends of the Resolution presented and explained its substantive comments on the “Call for Evidence” instrument shared by UNEP. As far as the Friends are concerned, the instrument **does not capture the essence of the resolution**. It
8. UNEP, regardless of the concern of several Member States on the “Call for Evidence,” proceeded with developing the scoping study.
9. In this regard, the Friends of the Resolution Working Group calls on UNEP:
  - a. To maintain the collaborative nature of the implementation of the resolution, as contained in the resolution, and
  - b. To engage all relevant stakeholders in finetuning the “Call for Evidence,” because in its current format, the instrument cannot collect adequate inputs to produce the scoping study and the final report,
10. In conclusion:
  - a. We **urge** UNEP to redo and redistribute the Call for Evidence,
  - b. We **call upon UNEP** to work closely with the friends of the resolution.
11. Finally, we wish to reiterate the Group’s concern about the unavailability of financial resources to implement the resolution successfully and **request** UNEP to pursue innovative financing.

Thank you!