

Name of Member States / organization	Canada (for the 3rd Informal Meeting Nov 8)
Date	2023-11-08

Second draft, 30 October 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 actions to tackle the three planetary ~~environmental~~ crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Para 1: 1) Canada supports the reference to the three or triple planetary crisis in the Ministerial Declaration.
2) The qualifier ‘environmental’ artificially narrows the scope of the 'triple planetary crisis' in a single declaration, when it has had a broader global understanding otherwise, and weakens its impact. We would like its deletion.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to 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 health, environment, and security, that are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity.

Para 3: same comment as in Paragraph 1 on triple planetary crisis.

4. We emphasize the importance of advancing integrated, science-based approaches, informed by the latest and best available evidence, as well as the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities, to strengthen resilience to present and future emerging challenges, promote global

solidarity and endeavour towards 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 and twenty-eight sessions of the conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27 and COP 28), including the decision to establish new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage; as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan and 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 Global Framework ~~[DEL: on]~~ **[ADD: for]** Chemicals.

Para 5: We understand from the GFC Secretariat that it is the Global Framework “for” Chemicals, not “on” as was previously communicated.

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](#), the 2023 UN Water Conference, the adoption by the General Assembly of Resolution 77/334 convening the next United Nations Water Conference in 2026 “to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6”, the high-level meeting on the midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2023 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam ~~[DEL:and]~~ **[ADD:;]** Stockholm **[ADD: and Minamata]** Conventions.

Para 6: Canada recommends adding the Minamata Convention to this list (the Parties of which met recently).

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 \(AR6\)](#) recognizing that, to limit global warming to 1.5°C, net global greenhouse gas emissions must **[ADD: peak at the latest before 2025, and]** be rapidly and deeply reduced by 43% below 2019 levels by 2030 to 60% by 2035 before ultimately reaching net zero CO2 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 deep, rapid and sustained emissions reductions in all sectors, especially those with large share and growth in gross GHG emissions, and for enhanced support provided and mobilized for developing countries and vulnerable regions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Para 7: Canada strongly recommends this insertion to reflect the full nature of the findings of the IPCC with regard to 1.5C pathways, alongside the 43% and 60% figures already reflected in the text (see AR6 Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers, para B.6.1). As it stands, without reference to the action needed by 2025, the text does not fully reflect the immediate urgency for enhanced mitigation action.

7 bis We also note with concern, the new report by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), [ADD: the [Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species](#)] recognizing that more than 3,500 out of the 37,000 alien species that have been introduced by many human activities to regions and biomes around the world pose major global threats to nature, economy, food security and human health. Invasive alien species (IAS) play a key role in 60% of global plant and animal extinctions, and cost humanity more than \$400 billion a year – an amount that has quadrupled every decade since 1970.

Para 7 bis: Canada recommends adding the proper name, and hyperlink to the IPBES Invasive Alien Species report (as was done in the paragraph about the AR6 report above).

8. We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive and collective action to tackle the three planetary [DEL: environmental] crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as other related crises of desertification, land and soil degradation and drought, we urgently need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity [ADD: across sectors and jurisdictions so that] [DEL: and to provide new, additional, and] adequate means of implementation [ADD: are available].

Para 8: 1) Same comment as in paragraph 1 on the triple crisis.

2) it is important to flag the various cross cutting sectors and actors who need to be involved here.

3) Canada recommends a more general language since MOI includes both financial and non-financial (e.g., capacity building).

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[ADD:;] [DEL: and] Indigenous Peoples, [DEL: and] local communities, the private and public sectors, as well women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities and those at risk of being left furthest behind.

Para 9: Canada very strongly recommends separating Indigenous Peoples and local communities with a comma, in order to reflect that these are distinct groups, and that Indigenous Peoples hold distinct collective rights that are not held by local communities. It is important not to conflate Indigenous Peoples and "local communities", including by ascribing the rights, characteristics and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples to "local communities". Using the two terms in conjunction ("Indigenous Peoples and local communities") is an irritant for Indigenous Peoples in Canada and internationally. See for example paragraph 85 of the 21st report of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that calls for the "abolition" of that use.

10. We therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account [DEL Respective Capabilities, as well as] the special needs and circumstances of [ADD: particularly] 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):

Para 10: 1) We have concerns with the term 'Respective Capabilities' in the context of this Declaration and would kindly request deletion. There are references to needs, circumstance and challenges faced by developing countries already in the chapeau.

2) all regions are vulnerable. We would recommend qualifying this reference in some way to reflect the fact that we mean to focus on the "poorest and most vulnerable" (as we previously proposed), or perhaps a slightly simpler solution would be to note the "particularly" vulnerable regions.

- a. UNFCCC and the goals of 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, and setting higher ambition in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in order to reduce global GHG emissions by 43 per cent by 2030. We will also take action on equity and social justice to achieve more sustainable outcomes and co-benefits and reduce trade-offs while advancing climate resilient development and protect our communities against disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as drought, heavy rains, wildfires, heatwaves, famine, and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.
- b. Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 to achieve the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet, including by conserving [ADD: at least 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas and marine coastal areas], restoring [ADD: at least 30% of the world's degraded ecosystems] and sustainably using biodiversity [DEL: and-by] ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, including associated traditional [ADD: and welcoming the successful establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Fund under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support developing countries implement the KMGBF.]. We will do so by accelerating the rapid review alignment of national targets with the [ADD: KM]GBF, while providing [ADD: support for] the [DEL: necessary] means of implementation, in recognition of the importance of sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity to provide social, economic and environmental benefits for people, and by implementing in a timely manner the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing on the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund.

Para 10b:

1) Canada is of the view that Ministers should more comprehensively and forcefully advocate for the implementation of the negotiated KMGBF. See adding the 2 targets that were agreed to in the KMGBF.

2) We strongly recommend the Declaration welcomes the establishment of the new GBF Fund under the GEF. See suggested language.

- c. Cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition that seeks to achieve an energy-secure future for all, while respecting local, national and regional needs and priorities, and define clear actions to address climate change, including a progressive phase-out of [ADD : unabated] fossil fuels [ADD: so as to achieve net zero in energy systems by 2050 at the latest in line with the trajectories required to limit global average temperatures to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels], considering the social and economic opportunities of climate action, avoiding negative impacts on

the environment and natural resources and promoting effective social dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders.

Para 10c: 1) As part of our commitment to phase out unabated fossil fuels, the addition of "**unabated**" before fossil fuels is a must for Canada. 2) We would like Ministers to reiterate important climate commitments here.

- d. Deploy greater efforts, including mobilizing and allocating adequate resources, to enhance the environmental sustainability of minerals and metals, and address challenges associated with sand mining and tailings management worldwide.
- e. Accelerate the negotiation of ~~[DEL: an]~~ ~~[ADD: the]~~ *international legally binding instrument* ~~[DEL: to end]~~ ~~[ADD: on]~~ *plastic pollution, including in the marine environment*, as ~~[DEL: resolved]~~ ~~[ADD: adopted]~~ 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 ~~[ADD: in order to end plastic pollution by 2040 through a comprehensive lifecycle approach]~~.

Para 10e: Canada recommends those changes as shown to align with language in UNEA resolution 5/14, with the understanding that the additional language at the end of the paragraph will be incorporated.

As a member of the High Ambition Coalition, Canada would like to add 'end plastic pollution by 2040 **through a comprehensive lifecycle approach**'. Canada recommends including this objective in the text.

- f. Enhance ~~[DEL: broader cooperation]~~ ~~[ADD: efforts]~~ to ~~[DEL: reduce]~~ ~~[ADD: reduce]~~ air pollution through ~~[ADD: nationally and/or sub-nationally and through broader international cooperation]~~, including ~~[ADD: regional approaches]~~ ~~[DEL: through]~~ ~~[ADD: considering]~~ the One Health approach, recognizing that air pollution is the leading environmental risk factor for human health, which contributes to negative impacts on ecosystems, does not stop at national borders and can impact regions in different ways, to achieve multiple benefits to the economy, ecosystems, climate and human health.

Para 10f: Canada is asking for indulgence from the Presidency and would like to suggest further edits to our previous suggestions on previous drafts:

1) additional edits as shown.

2) If possible the last part of the paragraph after '*One Health approach*' could also be moved to a more preambular style paragraph as it would be more relevant to lay down these facts before the actual action paragraphs.

- g. Deploy greater efforts towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through an integrated financing approach based on enhanced mainstreaming, greater industry

involvement, and expanded dedicated external financing, to [DEL: avoid negative] [ADD: minimize and prevent significant adverse] health and environmental impacts, and accelerate the implementation of the Global Framework [DEL: on] [ADD: for] Chemicals. 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 10g:

1) Canada strongly recommends strengthening and clarifying the language around the impacts of chemicals and waste - "reducing negative impacts" is not consistent with the [scale of those impacts](#), or the growing evidence of the [urgent necessity for stronger prevention measures](#).

2) as per before, the correction is consistent with the exact name of the new chemical framework.

- h. Incorporate climate, biodiversity, pollution, as well as land neutrality, desertification and drought 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. Achieve gender equality and empower 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 and disability-disaggregated data and statistics across all policies and actions, in our pursuit of inclusive and equitable solutions to the three **DEL: environmental** planetary crises that leave no one behind.

Para 10 i): same comment as above on the three planetary crisis.

- 11. We will leverage digital transformations as an enabling tool to support sustainable economies and societies through bridging existing digital divides, improving research, innovation and equal access to environmental information and harnessing emerging technologies for environmental sustainability, while ensuring that digitalization remains inclusive, equitable and sustainable.
- 12. We note with great concern the findings of the Global Resource Outlook 2024 and commit to continue to advocate for a whole-of-society approach that can effectively empower societies at large, and particularly people in vulnerable situations, to accelerate research, innovation, education and behavioural change, facilitate their just transition to sustainable consumption and production and move towards the implementation of economic policies and models, including along value chains, resource efficiency and other related approaches such as sustainable and circular bioeconomy, and sustainable lifestyles, in line with the 10 YFP Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023 - 2030 [ADD: and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework].

Para 12: Canada recommends referring to the KMGBF which contains sustainable consumption and production targets.

13. We call upon Member States, International Financial Institutions, international development banks, private foundations, philanthropies, funds and other actors to promote further synergies and coherence in financing action to address the three [DEL: environmental] planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, aligning relevant policy and regulatory measures with international goals and targets to provide incentives and an enabling fiscal and policy framework for resource mobilization, as echoed at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank 2023 annual meeting held in Marrakech. We will engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards a rapid mobilization and scaling 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 gross domestic product.

Para 13: see above comment on the triple planetary crisis.

14. 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 [ADD: and panels] 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 [ADD: cross-cutting] environmental and [ADD: and health] issues.

Para 14: Canada recommends the additions to the text as shown above to be consistent with the breadth of work and fora involved: e.g. UNEP's role as a member of the One Health Quadripartite, the One Health High Level Expert Panel, as well as the IPCC, IPBES, and the future SPP on chemicals, waste and pollution - and serves to reinforce the importance of multistakeholder and inter-disciplinary approaches, as called for in UNEA resolution 5/8 regarding the SPP as well as in the Bonn Declaration 2023, the new [Global Framework for Chemicals](#) and many others.

15. 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 synergetic environmental support at the country level and UNEP's engagement with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to support mainstreaming of environmental issues into planning, programming and operations, and including 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 increase in resources, including from the regular budget.

16. 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.

17. 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, Ministerial Declaration and to ensure an ambitious outcome that will reinvigorate environmental multilateralism, stimulate the implementation of existing commitments, strengthen synergies and complementarities 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 Ministerial Declaration as the UN Environment Assembly's contribution to the General Assembly for consideration at the Summit of the Future.

Para 17: Canada is not comfortable with this paragraph. The current language presupposes an adoption outcome that we have not seen, and the Summit is intended to have a much broader, horizontal focus than this paragraph suggests (i.e. outside the scope of UNEA). We would be happy to suggest alternative language once Members States have had a discussion.

18. We invite the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organisations to work with the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote an effective and inclusive implementation of the commitments contained in this Declaration.