

RUSSIAN DELEGATION Comments and Suggestions

on

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] (*Russia: replace with “global environmental challenges”, in order to avoid narrowing of UNEA’s mandate*)

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]**. (*Russia: replace with “global environmental challenges”*)
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.]** (*Russia: delete because it is wrong to equate the outcomes of major UN conferences with the reports of Secretary-General or chairmen’s summaries*).
3. We acknowledge **[with great urgency]** (*Russia: delete*) the systemic threats posed by the **[three planetary environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution]** (*Russia: replace with “global environmental challenges”*) 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]** (*Russia: delete, because of redundancy – sustainable development covers it all – proposal supported during the informal consultations*).
- 3 bis We reaffirm the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, and support continuous strengthening of intergovernmental oversight and the accountability of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Programme’s mandate. (*Russia: add*) Source – *UNEA Special Session Declaration, OP 6*
- 3 ter We stress the importance of advancing equitable geographic distribution and gender parity among the staff of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly with regard to Professional and senior-level positions, and request the Executive Director of the Programme to continue ongoing effort and take effective action in this regard and continue to report regularly to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on progress achieved. (*Russia: add*) Source – *UNEA Special Session Declaration, OP 9*
4. We emphasize the importance of advancing integrated, science-based approaches, informed by the **[latest and best available]** (*Russia: replace with “scientifically verified”*) 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.]** *(Russia: delete, because resolution 76/300 was not adopted by consensus and reference to it would unnecessarily politicize an essentially environmental declaration).*

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 on Chemicals.
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 mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2023 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.]** *(Russia: reserve, need to consult)*
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 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.]**
(Russia: delete because this paragraph represents an interference in the climate negotiations that are currently underway in a specialized process. Current para 5 correctly reflects UNEA's political support to the multilateral climate process).
- 7 bis **[We also note with concern, the new report by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 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.]** *(Russia: delete because this paragraph represents an interference in the negotiations that are currently underway in a specialized process. The Ministerial Declaration should not micromanage particular country-related data.)*
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 and soil degradation and drought]** *(Russia: replace with “global environmental challenges”]*, we urgently need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity and provide new, additional, predictable 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]** *(Russia: delete because of unclarity of concepts, or clarify and rephrase in plain language comprehensible to the larger public)* 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, persons with disabilities and those at risk of being left furthest behind]** . *(Russia: delete and replace with term “Major Groups” as defined in Agenda 21 that covers all the categories relevant to sustainable development)*

10. We therefore decide to take the following actions, taking into account 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):