

Ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor.

At the outset, I would like to Thank the presidency for the efforts invested in the participatory inclusive drafting process of the Ministerial declaration and for incorporating our previous comments.

We would like to reflect the Universal nature of UNEA in this declaration, as well as in the scope of UNEP work.

The declaration addresses the responsibility and scope of cooperation with states and other Stakeholders.

Accordingly, we kindly request that wherever we mention member states: we refer to the Observer States who are part and parcel of this exercise.

In the Past declaration¹ we used: “... **and members of Specialized agencies**” after Member States. There are Merits for both terms: ‘**Observer States**’ would be applied in some places in the Text, and other places where ‘**Members of Specialized Agencies**’ would be more accurate and inclusive as it brings the EU on board of the scope of the request.

We are flexible on what term to use, and we could also interchange the term according to what is requested in each specific Paragraph. E.g. If we are speaking about in Country implementation, we could go with ‘**Observer States**’², and when we are speaking about adopting policies and/or developing technical and financial frameworks we could rely on ‘**members of Specialized Agencies**’ to better capture all relevant stakeholders.

Mr. chair

Given the universal nature of UNEA, and the fact that this declaration is intended to be adopted by all Ministers, Member states or Observer States, this requires underscoring the important UNEP’s Inclusive engagement with all partners, including Member States, observer states, and all other stakeholders. Also, it highlights the vital role that UNEP plays in fostering collaboration and cooperation among all relevant parties to address global environmental challenges effectively.

This reference is an agreed text acknowledging UNEP as a leading environmental authority within the United Nations, in alignment with paragraph 5 of the political declaration of UNEP@50.

Political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme March 2022
5. Affirm the indispensable role of the United Nations Environment Assembly within the United Nations system as the intergovernmental decision-making body with universal membership, while respecting the independence and respective mandates of multilateral environmental agreements, for enhancing progress in the comprehensive implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the United Nations system, providing overarching policy guidance, and strengthening international environmental governance and implementation of the global environmental agenda in line with the document “The Future We Want”;

¹ [Information on reports and updates by the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/technology-and-economic-assessment-panel-reports)