

**Draft ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly  
at its sixth session**

**“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 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 global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation.
2. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and we take note of the recommendations of the Secretary General of the United Nations in his report “Our Common Agenda” and the “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all-our responsibility, our opportunity”, international meeting.
3. We acknowledge with a sense of great urgency the threats posed to sustainable development by global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation and their impacts on human health and the environment, which are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity.
4. We emphasize the importance of advancing integrated, science-based approaches, informed by the best available or verifiable science, and the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities, to strengthen resilience to present emerging and future challenges, and promote global solidarity while recalling the General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.
5. We welcome the important agreed outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the decision to establish funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan; the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the agreed outcome of the first global stocktake and the U.A.E Framework for Global Climate Resilience to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation; the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its adoption of the [Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030; the General Assembly resolution 77/161 promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development; the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the [Abidjan Call](#) to act on drought, desertification and land degradation; and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management including the Global Framework on Chemicals.

6. We also welcome other recent, important multilateral achievements, including the adoption of the internationally legally binding agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; the General Assembly Resolutions A/76/296 of 21 July 2022 “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility and A/77/242 of 20 December 2022 deciding to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in 2025; the 2023 UN Water Conference, which generated significant momentum towards enhancing water action and political commitment at all levels; the General Assembly resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023 deciding to convene the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6; The Summit of the three Basins of the Amazon- Congo- Borneo-Mekong-South East Asia of October 2023 the High-Level Meeting on the Mid-term Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; and the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. We recognize the need to strengthen international cooperation on water, at all levels, and we highlight the need for an integrated approach on water by the United Nations, in line with the upcoming United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation. We restate our commitment to accelerating the implementation of the ocean-related targets of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and acknowledge the critical role played by the Regional Seas in ocean governance.
7. We note with great concern the main findings of the synthesis report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s [Sixth Assessment Report](#), and recognize that limiting global warming to 1.5 °C with no or limited overshoot requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.
8. We also note with great concern the findings of the assessment on invasive alien species adopted by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental science policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its tenth meeting, recognizing that more than 3700 of the 37,000 alien species that have been introduced by human activity to regions and biomes around the world have become invasive and pose major global threats to nature, economy, food security and human health. Noting that invasive alien species play a key role in 60 per cent of global plant and animal extinctions, and stress the importance of international cooperation, including international funding to support developing countries, in effectively managing invasive alien species in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss. We further emphasize the importance of international cooperation and information exchange to combat illegal wildlife trade, which is often operated by transnational organizations and has and its deep impacts on biodiversity.
9. We are aware that in order to inspire impactful and collective action to tackle global environmental challenges and crisis including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought, and deforestation, we urgently need to reinforce action, global inclusiveness and solidarity and scale up means of implementation to support developing countries.
10. We are committed to urgently addressing the challenges before us through effective, co-sectoral inclusive and sustainable actions ensuring that such actions are science- and knowledge based, taking into account traditional knowledge and are gender sensitive, with the engagement of all relevant actors and partners including civil society, academia, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the private and public sectors, as well as women and girls, children and young people, older persons, and persons with disabilities, other populations

affected disproportionately by global environmental challenges and crises leaving no one behind.

11. Welcome the role of the Children and Youth Major Group and Youth Environment Assembly in fostering active youth participation in multilateral environmental governance
12. We therefore decide to take the following actions, recognizing the importance of development as a priority, benefits for all, and result oriented actions :
  - a. Address climate change, in line with the principals, goals and objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement, and take action to achieve more sustainable outcomes and co-benefits, while advancing climate resilient development and protecting our communities against disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as drought, heavy rains, wildfires, heat waves, famine, and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.
  - b. Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 by ensuring a swift, inclusive and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with consideration of the one health approach, among other holistic approaches ; put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet, including by conserving, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, including associated traditional knowledge, with the informed consent of Indigenous People and of local communities. We will do so by the revision or update of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the alignment of national targets with the Global Biodiversity Framework, while providing the necessary means of implementation, including under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, in recognition of the importance of sustainable biodiversity-based activities; implementing affordable Nature Based Solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, that enhance biodiversity, in order to provide social, economic and environmental benefits for people; and by advancing the discussion, in a timely manner, on policy options including the development of a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund, in accordance with decision 15/9 of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
  - c. Support the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and with the United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification to halt biodiversity loss, combat desertification, land degradation, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, improve drought management and promote sustainable practices, including the transition to sustainable agricultural production, fisheries and sustainable forest management.
  - d. Cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition, within each country, that seeks to achieve an energy-secure future for all, while respecting local, national, regional and global needs and priorities, , in a just, orderly and nationally determined manner, while considering equitable access to clean energy, and secure resilient development of sustainable energy infrastructure, and promoting a just transition based on effective social dialogue among all stakeholders.
  - e. Deploy efforts to enhance the environmentally sustainable management of minerals and metals, including for a just and sustainable energy transition.
  - f. Commit to continuing to engage constructively and actively and with a sense of urgency and solidarity in the ongoing negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on

plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach and seek to reach a fair, effective, balanced and ambitious international legally binding instrument through the international negotiating committee, with the ambition of its completion, by the end of 2024.

- g. Enhance efforts and broader cooperation to address pollution, including through reducing atmospheric and water pollution, recognizing that pollution is a leading environmental risk factor for human health, which has a negative impact on ecosystems and climate change, transcends national borders and affects regions in different ways.
  - h. Promote the outcome of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to achieve the vision, objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals, and resolve to 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 strengthened dedicated external financing, to prevent, or where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse health and environmental impacts, and accelerate the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, with due regard for national circumstances. We also strongly support the process for establishing a new intergovernmental science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, as per Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 of 2 March 2022, and we call on Member States to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations towards completion by the end of 2024.
  - i. Incorporate climate, biodiversity pollution, as well as deforestation, land degradation, desertification, drought and water considerations into disaster risk management policies and actions to mitigate, adapt to, 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.
  - j. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and persons with disabilities, in line with existing international commitments and obligations, to ensure their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership at all levels of environmental decision-making, and promote the collection and use of gender and disability-disaggregated data, as appropriate, and statistics across all policies and actions, in our pursuit of inclusive and equitable solutions to global challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, that leave no one behind.
13. 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 and monitoring how they develop for sustainability, as appropriate, while ensuring that digitalization remains inclusive, equitable and sustainable.
14. We commit to continuing to advocate for a whole-of-society approach that can effectively empower societies at large, including women, children and youth, and particularly people in vulnerable situations, and to accelerate research, innovation, education and behavioural change, and facilitate a just transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns. We also commit to moving towards the implementation of economic and environmental policies and models, including through increasing resource efficiency along value chains, and other related approaches such as sustainable and circular economies and sustainable lifestyles, taking into account the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023-

2030, and call on Member States and United Nations Observer States to develop resource efficiency strategies and circular economy strategies.

15. We urge Member States, United Nations Observer States, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, private foundations, philanthropies, funds and other actors to promote further synergies and coherence in financing action to address the global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and to provide an enabling policy framework for resource mobilization, as called for at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank 2023 annual meetings held in Marrakech. We will engage domestic, international, and private sector actors in the rapid mobilization and scaling up of 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 evolve the international financial architecture and reform development Financing.
16. We reiterate our recognition of the United Nations Environment Programme's role in strengthening the science-policy interface and undertaking strategic foresight and horizon scanning in collaboration with existing science policy platforms and panels to improve the capacity of Member States and stakeholders at all levels to prioritize scientific research, stimulate and encourage decision making and actions that can anticipate trends and risks, and prevent and respond to emerging cross-cutting environmental and health issues, with particular focus on life cycle assessment of the environmental and sustainable development impacts of specific technologies in order to make informed decisions.
17. We reaffirm the interdependence of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the need to address those crises in a comprehensive and integrated manner, in line with relevant international obligations and different national circumstances. We also reaffirm the role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the importance of recruiting staff on a wide geographical basis as possible to advance the equitable geographic distribution and gender parity among its staff; and support continuous strengthening of oversight and accountability of the UNEP secretariat, as set for in the political declaration of the special session of the United Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme.
18. We call for the reinforcement of the United Nations Environment Programme and its catalytic role, both at the Headquarters and in level regional offices, in strengthening regional cooperation, including through regional ministerial forums and, while excluding politicization of environmental processes, to tackle context-specific environmental challenges. We also recognize the growing demand for a stronger and more coherent environmental support at the country level, including with regard to the United Nations Environment Programme engagement with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams, to support mainstreaming of environmental issues into planning, programming and operations, and inclusion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in Common Country Analyses and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and call for the strengthening of United Nations Environment Programme within the United Nations development system at the regional and country level.
19. We call on the United Nations Environment Programme, as the leading global environmental authority within the United Nations, and echoing the political declaration of the special session of the United Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, to intensify its support and assistance to Member States, including at the country level and in cooperation with relevant multilateral environment agreements secretariats, in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements, the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, while providing equal attention and prioritization of the implementation of all Environment Assembly resolutions and outcomes.

20. We look forward to the Summit of the Future in September 2024, as an opportunity to further advance our collective environmental commitments, urge all Member States, United Nations Observer States and relevant non-governmental organisations, Major Groups and Stakeholders, the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the multilateral environment agreements 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 multilateral cooperation for environmental protection, stimulate the implementation of existing commitments, strengthen synergies and complementarities in the work and implementation of the multilateral environment agreements, within their independent and respective mandates, and decide on concrete solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence. We therefore request the President of the Environment Assembly to transmit this Ministerial Declaration as the Environment Assembly's contribution to the General Assembly for consideration at the Summit of the Future.
  
21. In the spirit of a reinvigorated multilateral and international cooperation, we invite the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organisations to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote the calls contained in this declaration and effectively and inclusively implement its actions and commitments.