

UNEA -6 President Closing Statement

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,**

I am proud to say this was a successful Assembly, where we advanced on our core mandate: the legitimate human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, everywhere.

I would like to thank you for the tremendous work done by every one of you, by UNEP, ED Inger Andersen and her staff, by all members of the Bureau, including: the Chair of the CPR His Excellency Firas Khouri, Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and all CPR Bureau members
the chair of the Committee of the Whole Mr. Norbert Kurilla, Advisor to the President of the Slovak Republic and all supporting facilitators.

I would like to especially acknowledge all delegations for their constructive engagement in the negotiations over the last 10 days.

I would even like to propose to UNEP the creation of an award of the best environment and climate negotiators, particularly the most driven and enlightened negotiators, those embodying the belief in a greater cause.

But let me get back to UNEA6

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Our task was to leave our mark on the global environmental agenda and we did.

Yes Multilateralism is under pressure, and yes we, at UNEA6, have truly made multilateralism work at its best.

Or should I say, because multilateralism is under pressure that the two guiding principles of this UNEA 6 were collective intelligence and equality.

When I took over the role of President, at the start of the first international conflict after the Pandemic, I declared that the resolutions of this UNEA must speak to all citizens of the world and be palpable means to advance their legitimate human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

And I recognized early on that our success would rely on multilateral cooperation, on international solidarity, on collective intelligence and forging meaningful partnerships among governments, private sector, science, finance and the society as a whole.

This is even more true today, 2 years later, with a second international conflict and half the world electing their leaders.

We need enlightened leadership. And enlightened leadership you have shown.

We have agreed on 15 resolutions, 2 decisions and a ministerial declaration.

The **resolution on water** that calls for an integrated approach for water resources management in agriculture and industry, and scale up means of implementation, especially in developing countries.

The **resolution on air pollution** which focuses on enhancing national air quality monitoring, capacity building, coordinating efforts to develop and implement air quality action plans and policies

The **resolution on land degradation** that calls member states to promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience.

The resolution **on ocean and seas governance** which calls for the necessity to strengthen the ocean science-policy interface, and to continue cooperation and coordination on marine issues among all relevant to deliver coherently on Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The **resolution on governance** aiming at promoting synergies in implementing MEAs by strengthening capacity-building initiatives, enhancing cooperation with UN Country Teams, providing assistance to reporting processes, and mobilizing resources.

The Ministerial Declaration reflects the great urgency of the environmental planetary crisis, and the differentiated impact and threats of the multiple environmental challenges we face.

It welcomes the important agreed principles and outcomes of past declarations, COPs and MEAs, in their entirety, and lists 10 actions that we, environment ministers, commit to deploy.

In my opening statement, I encouraged you to look at solutions, with an open inclusive and curious mind, in a meaningful whole of society approach; that keeps

vulnerable communities at the center of our objectives; and that ensures that no one is truly and credibly left behind.

And solutions we have found and we have nurtured in this UNEA6.

As governments, we need to relearn to work together better and use our regional and multilateral platforms, including the various MEAs, to their potential.

And as governments, we need to push for more and reinvented partnerships with key stakeholders to implement these mandates. We need to continue to partner with civil society, continue to guide and empower our creative youth, and also with the private sector and philanthropies.

Now it is the moment for passing the torch. I am honored to welcome my dear colleague His Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority of Oman, as the next UNEA President.

You have an important role ahead, and I wish you success.

Let's continue working with coherence and I will see you in 2 years.

Thank you.