

**MS. AMINA MOHAMMED
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**The Deputy Secretary-General's
Message for the Closing Plenary of the Sixth Session of the UN
Environment Assembly
Date: 01 March**

Your excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I am delighted to address the closing of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

My deep thanks to the Government of Kenya for their environmental leadership.

We are here because we know that humanity's relationship with the natural world is broken and this is threatening all life on this planet.

For too long, we have let the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste spiral out of control.

Excellencies, the natural world is the fabric that underpins our societies and our economies. As we chip away at nature's fabric, we chip away at progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

A mere 15 per cent of the SDGs are on track. This lack of progress is being felt most by the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

This UNEA has been our opportunity to turn the tables – and take several steps toward getting the SDGs back on track through environmental action.

This body and the resolutions passed today provide us much-needed momentum as we attempt to restore humanity's balance with nature.

My huge thanks to Member States, to civil society, to the scientific community and to UN partners for reminding us of the imperative of unified action on the environment.

This UNEA demonstrated the importance of hearing all voices as we seek to enhance multilateralism to deliver for people and the planet – a key focus for the Secretary-General.

This UNEA reminded us that policy without science is like steering a ship without navigation.

For the first time, we saw UNEA bring together a host of multilateral Environmental Agreements to explore how we can best secure seamless cooperation between these critical accords.

We all know that action on climate change is action on ending nature loss, is action on ending pollution and waste. We are stronger together.

Excellencies, two years ago I was with you to witness the famous Nairobi spirit – as you discussed and subsequently arrived at a historic agreement to launch negotiations on a global instrument to beat plastic pollution.

That moment when you gavelled that decision demonstrated that UNEA can unite a fractured world through a common vision, one where humanity lives in harmony with nature.

I thank you for demonstrating once again that, even in difficult times, multilateralism is the path to a better tomorrow.

And that it is possible for us to unite – for the only future that matters – that of our children and children's children.