

**Excellency, /.../ President William Ruto**  
**Excellencies, Heads of State and Government**  
**Ministers /.../**  
**Distinguished Participants**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I bring you **warm** and brotherly greetings from the Government /.../ and **People** of Ethiopia.

I would like to **begin** by extending my appreciation to President William Ruto /.../ for the invitation to **speak** at this Assembly /.../ and by **congratulating** Kenya /.../ for successfully hosting the Africa Climate Summit last September.

The summit /.../ and its declaration were **key** to articulate a common African position.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The challenges facing our planet are **profound**. We are **confronted** to multiple crisis that we **witness** unfolding every day /.../ placing us at a **critical** juncture in our shared journey toward a **sustainable** and resilient future.

The **rapid** increase in population amongst others, is placing **immense** pressure on **essential** resources such as water, food, energy, and land. **This** is **increasingly** overburdening our planet, **surpassing** its capacity to replenish itself and **leading** to political and economic disputes in certain regions.

Degradation of our ecosystems /.../ exposes us to **extreme** weather events /.../ leading to **water** scarcity or flooding, **risking** agricultural productivity and **aggravating** poverty in affected communities. In addition, **pollution** presents various threats to human health and the environment.

As African nations, we are striving to maximize the **potential** of our continent's **abundant** natural resources, to **expand** agriculture and industries, **strengthen** our economies, while **contributing** to global efforts to mitigate climate change.

Nevertheless, /.../while Africa's contribution to the triple planetary crisis is low, it **disproportionately** impacts our continent and **especially** marginalized communities.

## Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In Ethiopia, we have taken **focused** and **pragmatic** actions to address this crisis.

These include our Green Legacy initiative, a **powerful** nature-based solution, whereby we leveraged **basic** scientific knowledge and **active** community participation that **enabled** us to plant 32.5 **billion** seedlings in the last five years.

Now **/.../** entering its sixth year, our Green Legacy initiative has **seen** the **participation /.../** of over twenty-five million people annually, **uniting** citizens from all regions in Ethiopia as they join hands **/.../** to sow seeds and create a lasting green imprint.

Thus far, we have planted mostly **indigenous** trees, and we are **using** technology to **track** their growth. Our target **/.../** is to reach **fifty** billion by 2026.

As part of this initiative, we have **included** agroforestry into agricultural landscapes to **improve** soil fertility, **enhance** water retention, and **increase** resilience to climate change while **also** providing additional sources of income for farmers.

Through green diplomacy, we have **shared /.../** seedlings with our neighboring countries, and **today**, I **renew** our offer **/.../** to **scale** it at a continental level **linking** it with existing initiatives.

Positioned as one of the world's **largest** afforestation programs, the Green Legacy initiative **stands /.../** as a **testament** to Ethiopia's **commitment** to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Ethiopia is **also** enabling **substantial** investments in renewable and green energy as we **harness** our potential **/.../** to generate over sixty **thousand** megawatts of clean energy **/.../** through hydropower, solar, wind, and geothermal sources. Our **strategic** focus is to not only **power** Ethiopia **/.../** but **export** far beyond our borders.

We are further **focusing** on water resource management to **enhance** water security and regional cooperation. We are **developing** green infrastructures in cities, **prioritizing** nature-based tourism, to **enhance** biodiversity, **improve** the

quality of life for residents, and generate income for local communities while promoting conservation of natural resources.

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Global responses to the environment crisis are encouraging. But, /.../ in this interconnected world, /.../ further concerted international efforts /.../ guided by the principles of equity, justice, and solidarity are necessary to ensure sustainable growth.

Africa is the least contributor to climate change. Our continent /.../ offers many climate related investment opportunities. However, Africa receives only a small share of climate finance and mostly in the form of debt. Hence /.../ funding mechanisms /.../ need to address the existing realities.

The theme of this assembly /.../ underscores the importance of effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions.

I would like to reiterate /.../ Ethiopia's commitment to the principles of environmental multilateralism.

The triple planetary crisis transcend borders and boundaries, and no single nation /.../ or entity /.../ can tackle them alone. We must work together /.../ across sectors, disciplines and through our differences, to find /.../ innovative solutions and bring about positive and transformative change.

Technological advancements, such as the utilization of data and artificial intelligence, innovative finance and investments, the adoption of circular economy principles, /.../ the emergence of youth leadership, and increased community engagement, /.../ provide reasons /.../ for optimism.

In closing, let me emphasize that together, we can create a sustainable future for all. It's time to prioritize collaboration over competition, solidarity /.../ over division.

Our collective action today /.../ will shape the world we leave behind for future generations.

**I Thank You.**