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.