

Mr President,

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,

Good morning,

Crimes that affect the environment, including wildlife and forest crime, and crimes in the fisheries, waste, and mineral sectors undermine global efforts to address the triple planetary crisis.

The consequences of illicit logging in tropical rainforests, such as those in the Amazon and Congo Basin, have led to the destruction of habitats for numerous species.

Additionally, criminal activities within the waste and mining industries worsen pollution.

For example, the unauthorized disposal of hazardous waste from illicit mining can pollute water sources and significantly escalate CO2 emissions.

We cannot achieve our climate targets without recognizing the role that transnational organized crime and corruption play in undermining our joint efforts to address the “triple planetary crisis”.

To include criminal justice responses into this agenda is not merely about holding all responsible parties to account; it is fundamentally about protecting biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and promoting clean and sustainable business.

Mr. President, a **multilateral and multisectoral approach**, underpinned by evidence-based strategies and enforcement of commitments, is vital.

As underscored in the UNEP Executive Director’s report for UNEA-6, environmental multilateralism works; but it requires solutions-oriented shifts.

In response, we must support Member States to develop and implement all the tools at our disposal including strategic, scientific knowledge, harmonized legal frameworks, and consistent implementation.

So how do we do this?

International legal frameworks must be aligned with all commitments of the zero-draft of the proposed international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, and with the provisions of the UN Conventions on Transnational Organised Crime and Corruption.

Routinely updated strategic insights are required to identify and prioritize areas in need of technical assistance. In May, UNODC will share the preliminary findings of the Global Analysis on Crimes that Affect the Environment, during the annual Crime Commission. The early findings highlight the critical need for more data and research on the extent of illegal activities in sectors related to waste, mining, forestry, and fisheries. The crossover of knowledge and expertise between intergovernmental forums such as UNEA-6 and the Crime Commission is vital.

And the **implementation of joint action between international organizations** such as UNODC and UNEP, will frame the global response to crimes that affect the environment.

Yesterday evening, in collaboration with the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, the United States of America, the Nature Crime Alliance, and the World Resources Institute, UNODC delivered a side-event on joint action against nature crime and the role of environmental multilateralism. This was a truly inspiring event and set the political tone.

Countering crimes that affect the environment is integral to our collective efforts to tackle the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. If we fail to acknowledge the role of transnational organized crime and corruption, we will fall short of our climate targets and further endanger the health of our planet.

We are at a turning point in history.

The impact of climate change is real,

and this is exacerbated by crimes that affect the environments.

It is incumbent upon all of us to bolster multilateralism for the sake of our people and our planet

Thank you, Mr. President.