

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF)

“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.”¹

IMPACTS OF MULTIPLE CRISES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 AND 17 FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF YOUR INTERGOVERNMENTAL / EXPERT BODY.

1. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, oceans, lakes, and rivers are dependent on healthy ecosystems. Sustainable management of natural resources is critical to ending poverty – the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development² – hunger and reducing inequalities.
2. Our current unsustainable consumption and production patterns are driving global environmental challenges and achieving sustainable consumption and production is essential requirement for sustainable development.³
3. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) noted with great concern the main findings of the Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and that limiting global warming to 1.5°C, with no or limited overshoot, requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions. It also noted the findings of the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and Their Control at the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its tenth meeting, recognizing that more than 3,500 of the 37,000 alien species introduced by human activity to regions and biomes around the world have become invasive and pose major global threats to nature, the economy, food security and human health; and stressed the importance of international cooperation, including international funding to support developing countries, in effectively managing invasive alien species in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss.⁴

¹ SDGs under in-depth review: SDG 1. No poverty SDG 2. Zero hunger SDG 13. Climate action SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions SDG 17. Partnership for the goals.

² Paragraph 2, The Future We Want – Outcome document (A/RES/66/288)

³ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.”

⁴ Idem.

THREE KEY AREAS WHERE SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE SDGs ARE BEING EFFECTIVELY DELIVERED, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO THE CLUSTER OF SDGs UNDER REVIEW IN 2024, CONSIDERING THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE INTERLINKAGES ACROSS THE GOALS AND TARGETS.

4. Air quality to protect human health and the environment, reduce negative impacts, including on the economy, and promote sustainable development. Air pollution is one of the greatest environmental risks to health, and populations living in vulnerable situations are disproportionately exposed to air pollution and have a higher risk of associated negative health impacts and deaths. Air pollution also has significant adverse effects on ecosystems leading to loss of biodiversity. Addressing air pollution results in multiple benefits to human health, the economy, ecosystems and climate and efforts across sectors are needed to improve air quality. Improving air quality can result in climate co-benefits and, in turn, climate change mitigation efforts can result in air quality co-benefits.⁵
5. UNEA, in its sixth⁶ session, reiterated, as in its first,⁷ third,⁸ and fourth⁹ sessions, its encouragement to Governments to formulate action plans and establish and implement nationally determined ambient air quality standards, considering the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines and other relevant information and to establish emissions standards for their significant sources of air pollution. UNEA has underscored the need to elevate efforts at all levels of government, as well as the private sector to collaborate on addressing the significant impacts of air pollution, in line with the SDGs.
6. UNEA also affirmed¹⁰ that resilient action to combat and prevent sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of their severe multidimensional impacts, including deterioration of people's health, well-being and livelihoods, increased desertification, land degradation and deforestation and loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their negative impacts on sustainable economic growth. UNEA also invited Member States to promote cooperation, as appropriate, including through preparing and implementing programs and, wherever possible, action plans at the regional, and subregional levels; and promoting research, as well as technical and scientific collaboration among existing regional centers and, while avoiding duplications with existing centers, setting up new ones, for enhanced preparation and implementation of programs and action plans.
7. Enhancing innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production. UNEA has affirmed that sustainable consumption and production is an essential requirement for sustainable development. In its fourth session, UNEA invited Member States to consider approaches and policies for achieving sustainable consumption and production, when developing relevant national plans, sustainable development strategies and sector policies or equivalents to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and primary resource consumption.¹¹ In related developments, at its fifth session, UNEA acknowledged that pursuing circular economy

⁵ UNEP/EA.6/RES.10 - Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally.

⁶ Idem.

⁷ UNEA resolution 1/7. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality.

⁸ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session: Towards a pollution-free planet and UNEA resolution 3/8. Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.

⁹ UNEA resolution 4/21. Implementation plan "Towards a pollution-free planet".

¹⁰ UNEP/EA.6/Res.7. Combating sand and dust storms

¹¹ UNEA resolution 4/1. Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production.

approaches¹² - as one of the sustainable consumption and production approaches¹³ - and sustainable lifestyles as to achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns can contribute to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, pollution and their impact on human health, thus contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and other internationally agreed environmental goals.¹⁴ UNEA at its sixth session, through the resolution 6/1 on “Circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry”, further recognized that agroindustry is the link between agriculture and industry and that its sustainable development represents a key component of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the sustainable development of many countries and an opportunity to improve food security, biodiversity, livelihoods, human health, job creation and shared prosperity in support of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹⁵

8. In its sixth session, UNEA encouraged Member States to create the necessary evidence-based enabling conditions, foster public and private collaboration, pursue education at all levels and awareness-raising initiatives in support of empowering citizens to make informed choices about sustainable lifestyles. UNEA also decided to discuss sustainable lifestyles practices in the context of, inter alia, the diversity of nature’s values and approaches including, as appropriate, ecocentric approaches, of individuals and communities including that of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities for living in harmony with Nature, or Mother Earth, as recognized by some countries and regions.¹⁶
9. Sound management of chemicals and waste and the prevention of pollution. UNEA recognizes that the progress towards the sound management of chemicals and waste has not been enough and that pollution in air, water and soil negatively affects the environment and human health,¹⁷ as well as people in vulnerable situations. In its fifth session, UNEA decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution,¹⁸ and in its sixth session, UNEA strongly supported the process for its establishment to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and call on Member States to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.¹⁹ UNEA also acknowledged the voluntary, multi-stakeholder, multisectoral Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, requesting UNEP to continue providing support to strengthening national institutions for its implementation. UNEA also requested UNEP to continue its work to address lead, cadmium, arsenic, and organotins.²⁰

¹² Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”

¹³ UNEA resolution 5/11. Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production

¹⁴ Idem.

¹⁵ UNEP/EA.6/RES.1 Circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry.

¹⁶ UNEP/EA.6/RES.8 Promoting sustainable lifestyles.

¹⁷ UNEP/EA.6/RES.9 - Sound management of chemicals and waste.

¹⁸ UNEA resolution 5/8. Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

¹⁹ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”

²⁰ UNEP/EA.6/RES.9 - Sound management of chemicals and waste.

THREE EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS, POLICIES AND MEASURES THAT ARE MOST URGENTLY NEEDED TO EFFECTIVELY DELIVER SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND REINFORCE THE 2030 AGENDA, BUILDING ON INTERLINKAGES AND TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS FOR ACHIEVING THE SDGs.

10. The ministers for the environment, gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, at the sixth session of UNEA, (26 February-1 March 2024), acknowledged with a sense of great urgency the threats posed to sustainable development by global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, and their impacts on human health and the environment, which are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity.
11. Recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority and the interlinkages between the global environmental challenges and crises and the achievement of the SDGs, including eradicating poverty and ending hunger, they decided to take a set of actions, including:
 - i. Address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in a comprehensive and integrated manner, in line with relevant international obligations and different national circumstances: UNEA committed to address climate change, in line with the objective and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement, and take action to achieve more sustainable outcomes and co-benefits, while advancing climate-resilient development and protecting our communities against disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as droughts, heavy rains, wildfires, heat waves, famines and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. Commitments were also made to revise or update national biodiversity strategies and plans, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, align national targets with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and provide means of implementation, including under the Global Biodiversity Fund. UNEA seeks to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Convention to Combat Desertification and to integrate climate, biodiversity, and pollution considerations into disaster risk management policies and actions. On resource efficiency, UNEA will cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition and will improve the sustainable management of minerals and metals. Other commitments include supporting the active engagement in negotiations on an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment, promoting the outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, girls, and persons with disabilities.²¹
 - ii. Urgently reinforce action, global inclusiveness and solidarity and scale up means of implementation to support developing countries in tackling global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, land and soil degradation, drought, and deforestation.²²
 - iii. Implement effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, considering it is critical for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger. UNEA calls upon Member States and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to

²¹ Idem.

²² Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session "Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution."

implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate; adopt coherent responses to the water-related challenges and risks across sectors, regions and actors; enhance the collection and monitoring of reliable, up-to-date water-related data; mainstream sustainable water management and the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems into relevant intergovernmental processes, as well as national and local development strategies and relevant policies, with consideration of the One Health approach.²³

- iv. Foster national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements to facilitate coherent and effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the regional and national level, including the strengthening cooperation between United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Country Teams. To promote synergies, cooperation or collaboration, as appropriate, in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at national level, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and observing their independent and autonomous nature, including through the establishment of coordinated and cooperative approaches, structured communication channels and convening of national focal points of various multilateral environmental agreements; and identifying in the Voluntary National Reviews to the High-Level Political Forum, where applicable, contributions of MEAs to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²⁴
- v. Enhance the role and viability of the regional forums of Ministers of the environment, and the United Nations Environment Programme regional offices as catalytic platforms for international cooperation in tackling prevalent environmental challenges to address the environmental dimension of sustainable development, through technical support for the implementation of decisions of the regional forums and to enhance collaboration with UNEP regional offices.²⁵

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND MEASURES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY YOUR INTERGOVERNMENTAL / EXPERT BODY TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE SDG SUMMIT.

12. Recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority, UNEA aims to drive multilateral action geared towards the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable solutions to global challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution that leave no one behind.²⁶
13. The following are examples of the actions decided by UNEA over the six sessions that support the implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit:
 - a. Responding to the commitment to address water scarcity and stress and drive transformation where water is a sustainable resource, ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, UNEA adopted a resolution which calls for mainstreaming sustainable water management into intergovernmental processes

²³ UNEP/EA.6/RES.13. Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

²⁴ UNEP/EA.6/RES.6. Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements.

²⁵ UNEP/EA.6/RES.3. Enhancing the role and viability of regional forums of environment ministers and United Nations Environment Programme regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges

²⁶ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session "Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution."

and national strategies, enhancing data collection, promoting integrated water resource management in agriculture and industry, and encouraging investment in sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure and inviting Member states to scale up means of implementation in developing countries.²⁷

- b. UNEA is also contributing to addressing gaps related to the impacts of environmental challenges and crises on human health and the environment,²⁸ including through urging Member States to integrate biodiversity conservation with public health policies and inviting them to strengthen links between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and public health in sectoral policies, to better prevent, detect, and respond to health risks and to enhance international cooperation with a view to addressing the specific challenges faced by developing countries in implementing the One Health approach, including by strengthening capacity for health surveillance and promoting responses, in line with national circumstances and priorities.²⁹
- c. UNEA, determined to acting decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use, and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems and affirming the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, called for the strengthening, without prejudice to and within UNEP's mandate, the regional seas programme to further support regional seas conventions and action plans, recognizing their importance in assisting countries and regions in applying an ecosystem approach to manage the marine and coastal environment. It also requests UNEP to provide technical support to Member States and members of UN specialized agencies, upon request, for the development of marine and coastal planning and management tools within national jurisdiction and contribute to the Early Warnings for All initiative at all levels. UNEA also calls on Member States to strengthen the ocean science-policy interface, promoting research and collaboration, and communicating scientific knowledge to policymakers, the private sector, and civil society.³⁰
- d. UNEA decided to take action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, in line with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, by ensuring swift, inclusive and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with consideration of the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, and to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet, including by conserving, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the fair and equitable sharing benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, including associated traditional knowledge, with the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities.³¹ Member States will do so by revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and aligning national targets with the Global Biodiversity Framework, while providing the necessary means of implementation, including under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, in recognition of the importance of sustainable biodiversity-based activities; implementing nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches that enhance biodiversity; and advancing the discussion, in a timely manner,

²⁷ UNEP/EA.6/RES.13. Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

²⁸ ²⁸ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session "Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution."

²⁹ UNEA resolution 5/6. Biodiversity and health

³⁰ UNEP/EA.6/RES.15. "Strengthening Ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution".

³¹ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session "Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution."

of policy options including the development of a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund. UNEA also decided to take action to support the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to halt biodiversity loss, combat desertification and land degradation, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, improve drought management, and promote sustainable practices, including the transition to sustainable agricultural production and fisheries and sustainable forest management.³²

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY MESSAGES FOR INCLUSION INTO THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE 2024 HLPF.

14. Considering the main theme of the 2024 High-Level Political Forum - *Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions* – and the gap in the implementation of the environmental dimension, the Ministerial Declaration should underline the advances on the multilateral environmental agenda and propose concrete actions for the full integration of the environmental dimension in the implementation of the existing globally agreed goals, including those reflected in the multilateral environmental agreements, while respecting their respective mandates.
 - i. Reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.³³
 - ii. Reaffirm that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and promoting sustainable ones, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development, while stressing that poverty eradication remains the greatest challenge facing the world today.³⁴
 - iii. Acknowledge with a sense of great urgency the threats posed to sustainable development by global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, and their impacts on human health and the environment, which are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity.³⁵
 - iv. Welcome the important agreed outcomes of:
 - the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly under the theme “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.
 - the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including the decision to establish the global fund for loss and damage and recommendations for funding arrangements to improve coherence and coordination in responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, as well as the Sharm el-

³² Idem.

³³ Idem.

³⁴ Political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme and UNEA 5 Ministerial declaration.

³⁵ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

Sheikh Implementation Plan.

- the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including the “UAE Consensus”, the agreed outcome of the first global stocktake and the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation.
 - the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.
 - the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the Abidjan Call to act on drought, desertification and land degradation.
 - the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including the Global Framework on Chemicals –For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (which the United Nations General Assembly was invited to appropriately acknowledge with its strategic objectives and targets at its 79th session).
 - The 2023 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.³⁶
- v. Call on Member States for the enhancement of synergies, cooperation or collaboration, as appropriate, when implementing their respective obligations and commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other relevant environmental instruments, while respecting their individual mandates, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of national environment policies and actions, delivering global environmental benefits, contributing to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, considering the best available science, Indigenous knowledge, traditional knowledge, and local knowledge³⁷; and acknowledge the urgent need to reinforce action, global inclusiveness and solidarity and scale up means of implementation to support developing countries.³⁸
- vi. Take note of important multilateral achievements, including:
- the adoption of the internationally legally binding agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
 - General Assembly resolutions A/76/296 of 21 July 2022, entitled “Our ocean, our future,

³⁶ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”. Idem.

³⁷ UNEP/EA.6/RES.4. Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments.

³⁸ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

our responsibility”, and A/77/242 of 20 December 2022, entitled “2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

- the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, and the General Assembly resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023, entitled “Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018–2028”.
 - the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
 - the UN 2023 Water Conference and the Water Action Agenda.
 - the General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
 - the General Assembly resolution 77/161 of 14 December 2022 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- vii. Emphasize the importance of advancing integrated, science-based approaches, informed by the best available science, and the contributions by Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities, including their knowledge to strengthen resilience to current, emerging and future challenges and promote global solidarity,³⁹
- viii. Stress the importance of a reinvigorated multilateral and international cooperation for environmental protection and to address the multiple and interconnected environmental crises and challenges.⁴⁰
- ix. Reiterate the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface and undertaking strategic foresight and horizon scanning, with a particular focus on life cycle assessment of the environmental and sustainable development impacts of specific technologies in order to make informed decisions.⁴¹
- x. Leverage digital transformation as an enabling tool to support sustainable economies and societies through bridging existing digital divides, improving research, innovation, and equal access to environmental information, and harnessing emerging technologies and monitoring how they develop for sustainability, as appropriate, while ensuring that digitalization remains inclusive, equitable and sustainable.⁴²
- xi. Support the global efforts to end plastic pollution, and the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, in line with UNEA resolution 5/14, with the ambition to conclude this task by 2024.
- xii. Call on Member States to strengthen international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land

³⁹ Idem.

⁴⁰ Idem.

⁴¹ Idem.

⁴² Idem.

management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience.⁴³

- xiii. Reaffirm the commitment to:⁴⁴
- urgently addressing the environmental challenges before us through effective, co-sectoral, inclusive and sustainable actions, ensuring that such actions are science- and knowledge based, taking into account traditional knowledge, and are gender sensitive, with the engagement of all relevant actors and partners, including civil society, academia, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the private and public sectors, as well as women and girls, children and young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other populations affected disproportionately by global environmental challenges and crises, leaving no one behind.
 - continuing to advocate for a whole-of-society approach that can effectively empower societies at large, including women, children, and youth, and particularly those in vulnerable situations, and to accelerate research, innovation, education and behavioral change and facilitate a just transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 - moving towards the implementation of economic and environmental policies and models, including through increasing resource efficiency along value chains.
- xiv. Reaffirm the interdependence of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and call for the need to address them in a comprehensive and integrated manner, in line with relevant international obligations and different national circumstances.⁴⁵
- xv. Reaffirm the call upon Member States and members of specialized agencies to enhance the provision and mobilization of all types and sources of means of implementation, including capacity-building, technology and financial support, and to promote global partnerships and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to support developing countries in the implementation of national environmental policies in the areas in which they require it, and complementing their national efforts, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;⁴⁶
- xvi. Urge Member States, United Nations observer States, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, private foundations, philanthropies, funds and other actors to promote further synergies and coherence in financing action to address the global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and to provide an enabling policy framework for resource mobilization, as called for at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2023. Commit to engage domestic, international and private sector actors in the rapid mobilization and scaling up of means of implementation, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, while welcoming ongoing efforts to improve the international financial architecture and reform

⁴³ UNEP/EA.6/RES.14. Strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience.

⁴⁴ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session "Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution".

⁴⁵ Idem.

⁴⁶ Political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme

development financing.⁴⁷

- xvii. Call for the reinforcement of UNEP and its catalytic role in strengthening regional cooperation, including through regional ministerial forums, while excluding politicization of environmental processes, in tackling context-specific environmental challenges.⁴⁸
 - xviii. Noting the importance of recruiting United Nations Secretariat staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible in order to advance equitable geographic distribution and gender parity, and support continuous strengthening of oversight and accountability of the UN secretariat,⁴⁹ while giving due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with para 3 of Article 101 of the UN Charter.⁵⁰
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⁴⁷ Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”

⁴⁸ *Idem.*

⁴⁹ *Idem.*

⁵⁰ UNEP/EA.5/Res.13. Due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations