

## Revised draft

### United Nations Environment Assembly's written contribution to the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)

#### **“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”**

##### **1. Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17**

Multiple and interconnected challenges and crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, put strain on health increasing inequalities and exacerbating vulnerabilities, impacting the achievement of SDG 3. Air pollution, chemical exposure, and mercury and lead contamination cause millions of deaths annually, and plastic pollution poses further health concerns. WHO estimates that 24% of global deaths are environmentally linked, with inequitable disease burden. Environmental challenges and crises affect SDG 5, directly and indirectly impacting the effective enjoyment of all human rights, disproportionately affecting people in vulnerable situations, including women and girls, who play active and meaningful roles as key agents of change in developing innovative solutions.

SDG 8 faces environmental and economic disruptions to employment and financial stability, especially for natural resource-dependent sectors. SDG 14 is impacted by marine pollution, overfishing, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, ocean acidification, and rising sea temperatures, particularly affecting SIDS. The intergovernmental negotiations towards an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the entry into force of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement highlight the need for stronger commitments in marine conservation and sustainable resource management.

Financial constraints, debt distress, and inequitable trade mechanisms limit progress in the achievement of SDG 17, especially in developing countries.

Strengthening international and regional cooperation, mobilizing financial resources, enhancing national and local capacities, and ensuring equitable market and technology access are key for sustainable development.

##### **2. Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three**

## **dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources are strengthened through the expansion of marine protected areas towards the 30% target, integrating nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, strengthening international ocean governance, promoting international instruments for the protection of the ocean and the implementation of the Law of the Sea for biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity, and climate resilience. These actions support food security, human health, and inclusive economic development. Integrated watershed management and community-based restoration initiatives contribute to disaster risk reduction and enhance resilience, ensuring local participation and long-term sustainability.

**One Health:** A healthy planet is essential for healthy people. Member states have recognized the importance of strengthening links between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and public health in sectoral policies in line with the One Health approach as well as enhancing international cooperation to address the specific challenges developing countries face in its implementation. The One Health approach supports the SDGs, through multi-disciplinary knowledge hubs, early warning systems, surveillance for diseases with pandemic potential disease and upstream investments in clean water and wastewater to reduce AMR.

**Climate Resilience through Drought Management and Renewable Energy Transition:** Climate resilience requires among others drought preparedness and clean energy investment. Effective drought management includes early warning systems, water resource optimization, and drought-resistant crops, ensuring food security and water availability for people in vulnerable situations. Scaling up diversified energy approaches, renewable energy infrastructure and improving energy efficiency, supports sustainable economic growth and job creation.

### **3. Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**

Three key measures that can drive transformative change at scale include:

#### **Advancing Ocean Conservation and Sustainability**

Enhance ocean conservation and sustainable use of marine resources through international law.

Establish and manage MPAs and take other area-based conservation measures, consistent with national and international law and the best available scientific information

Tackle ocean acidification and its causes and further study and minimize its impacts.

Enhance capacity to deliver on the ocean-related SDGs and implement the relevant conventions, particularly in developing countries, considering the specific context of SIDS.

### **Addressing the interconnections between health and environment**

Address the impact of biodiversity loss, climate change and other related environmental crises to global health in accordance with the One Health approach.

Strengthen sectoral policy links between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and public health to prevent, detect, better prepare for and respond to health risks, and invest in enhancing the provision of health-related ecosystem services.

Strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels to support and promote sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution to improve human well-being and contribute to the prosperity of all.

### **Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production**

Implement national and regional circular economy approaches to minimize waste and pollution including plastic pollution, creating decent jobs.

Strengthen sustainable consumption and production practices, including the sustainable design of products and materials, improve resource efficiency, and reduce waste generation

Encourage private sector cooperation to enhance product design to favor product lifetime extension, repair, re-use and easier recycling.

### **Preventing, reducing and reversing Land Degradation**

Promote sustainable land management to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030 and enhance food and nutritional security, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

4. **Follow-up actions and measures** being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Strengthening implementation of multilateral environmental commitments**

A healthy planet is essential for sustainable development. UNEA advocates for the full implementation of internationally agreed environmental commitments. Through resolutions and ministerial declarations, UNEA promotes international cooperation for environment, which is central to the 2030 Agenda implementation, and reinforces integration of environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Further strengthening cooperation among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and between UNEP/UNEA and MEAs is essential to achieving environmental sustainability in the SDG context.

### **Advancing Global Action on Pollution, Chemicals, and Waste**

UNEA looks forward to the finalization of the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The decision to establish a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution Prevention is a critical step in

addressing pollution and safeguarding human health and ecosystems through science-based decision-making.

### **UNEA-7: Advancing Sustainability and Resilience**

The seventh session of UNEA (“Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet,”) will focus on scaling up transformative environmental solutions for economic and social resilience while addressing global environmental challenges and crises. These include climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation. UNEA-7 aims to mobilize international cooperation, strengthen partnerships, and support Member States in implementing science-based policies that align with the 2030 Agenda and other global commitments.

UNEA continues to drive impactful environmental action, ensuring that environmental sustainability remains central to global SDG advancement.

## **5. Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**

Emphasize integrated, inclusive, and science-based and approaches for collective action to address interconnected environmental challenges and with the engagement of all relevant actors and partners, including youth.

Strengthen implementation of the MEAs and enhance cooperation among them and UNEP.

Invest in science, innovation, and technology for sustainable ocean management, establish new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and promote nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, among other integrated management approaches.

Encourage Member States to consider the signing and ratification of the BBNJ Agreement, at the earliest possible date.

Enhance efforts towards deep, rapid and sustained reductions in GHG emissions to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Enhance drought resilience and promote sustainable land management to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030.

Strengthen global efforts on pollution, including by establishing a science-policy panel on chemicals, implementing the Global Chemicals Framework, and finalizing the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, with the ambition of completing that work in 2025.

Promote the adoption of circular economy approaches as a contribution to sustainable consumption and production in national and regional strategies, considering national circumstances and capacities.

Prioritize water security, by enhancing water resilience, water protection and integrated water resources management strategies.

Strengthen SDG accountability mechanisms and increase financing for environmentally sound technologies, and sustainable, resilient infrastructure, particularly in developing countries.

Promote gender-responsive, non-discriminatory environmental policies and measures for all women and girls; strengthen and implement policies aimed at increasing the participation and leadership of women in environmental decision-making.