



## UNEA7 Ministerial declaration

1. What would the Ministers for the Environment propose as the most important elements and or key messages that would enable the ministerial declaration to take forward the UNEA theme in the most impactful manner?

- The importance of promoting sustainable solutions based on scientific knowledge and local needs to achieve a resilient planet.
- The need to strengthen international cooperation to address global challenges such as climate change, desertification, pollution, land degradation and biodiversity loss.
- The right to a healthy environment as the basis for environmental justice with a focus on gender and social inclusion.
- The relevance of ecosystem services.
- The importance to address the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution) with a systemic and inclusive vision:
  - o Recognition of the interconnections between various environmental challenges
  - o Alignment of agendas and synergies among MEAs to avoid duplication of efforts
  - o Design of policies and decision-making processes based on the best scientific evidence (science-policy interface)
  - o Promoting intersectoral collaboration, multi-actor and multi-level efforts
  - o Participatory approaches in decision-making
  - o Principles of peace, justice and inclusion to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions





- o Promoting more sustainable production and consumption schemes (circular economy approaches), including value chains with fair, sustainable, legal and traceable trade schemes.
- o Access and exchange of information, experiences, lessons learned and technology
- o Mobilization of resources and development of sufficient, stable and long-term financial mechanisms to ensure means of implementation, recognizing shared but differentiated responsibilities
- o Comprehensive attention to humanitarian crises caused by environmental degradation (i.e. forced migration, violence against environmental defenders, organized crime, illegal logging and fishing).

Based on the results and recommendations of various international platforms and spaces on water, such as the UN Water Conference (2023) and the last World Water Forum (2024):

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is the most appropriate approach on water management since it considers the interconnection between water resources, ecosystems and human needs.
- Regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is necessary to accelerate actions towards the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), clean water and sanitation, especially for the most vulnerable communities, including women and girls, indigenous people and people of African Descent.
- Promote and maintain sustainable and innovative financing schemes for water projects, including the participation of the private sector, climate funds and public-private partnerships, while ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and transparently.
- Linking water and climate change ensuring that it is treated as a cross-cutting axis in mitigation and adaptation policies.
- The urgent need to strengthen the resilience of water systems.





The Ministerial Declaration could emphasize the commitment of countries to the effective implementation of international agreements, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting the importance of international cooperation and collective action to address global socio-economic challenges. It could highlight the urgency of integrating biodiversity conservation, adaptation and mitigation, sustainable resource management and access to environmental justice mechanisms and equity; as well as accelerating actions for access to clean water and sanitation. Additionally, it is important to call for immediate action to strengthen sustainable and equitable investment mechanisms.

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2. What key messages or conclusions from recent scientific reports would the Ministers for the Environment recommend for consideration in the ministerial declaration?

- IPCC findings on the urgency of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
- The connection between biodiversity loss and food security, as mentioned on IPBES reports.
- Recognition of the benefits of nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Studies highlighting the link between deforestation and the emergence of zoonotic diseases, underlining the importance of halting forest loss to protect human health.
- Thematic assessment of the links between biodiversity, water, food and health (Nexus Assessment). <https://www.ipbes.net/nexus-assessment>
- Thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity  
<https://www.ipbes.net/transformative-change-assessment>





- Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species  
<https://www.ipbes.net/sustainable-use-assessment>
- Methodological assessment regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services  
<https://www.ipbes.net/the-values-assessment>
- Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control.  
<https://www.ipbes.net/ias>
- Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity and Health.  
<https://www.cbd.int/health/0001.shtml>
- Action Plan 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-28-en.pdf>
- Gender Action Plan (2023-2030). <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-11-en.pdf>
- The 2023 Emissions Gap Report
- The 2023 Production Gap Report
- The 2023 Adaptation Gap Report

Likewise, the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report is recommended. In its 2024 edition, it showed the findings of the Global Risk Perception Survey (GRPS). The document concludes that environmental risks could reach a point of no return. Its results highlight that, in a decade, five of the ten main risks are going to be environment related, it particularly highlights challenges such as extreme weather events; the loss of biodiversity and the collapse of ecosystems; the scarcity of natural resources; and pollution: <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/>.





3. What proposed collective actions and policy solutions should the Ministers for the Environment adopt to advance the UNEA theme and promote effective and inclusive environmental governance?

- Promote international alliances to combat deforestation and forest degradation, with an emphasis on sharing knowledge and good practices.
- Implement mechanisms that promote technology transfer and the empowerment of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Promote mixed investment schemes to accelerate the implementation of sustainable solutions in key sectors.
- Strengthen environmental education as a tool to raise awareness in societies, empower local communities, and strengthen social and environmental governance in an inclusive manner.
- Transform current siloed governance modes through more comprehensive, inclusive, equitable and coordinated systems with clear responsibilities through synergistic policies and actions based on scientific evidence that include diverse and multiple actors to sustainably manage biodiversity, water, food, and climate change, in order to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and generate benefits to people and nature in the short, medium, and long terms.
- Address and close financial gaps to implement actions for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, prioritizing nature and social equity over private interests, as well as comply with the SDGs and implement urgent actions to transform values and structures to effectively address the challenges of the triple planetary crisis with systemic approaches.
- Recognize and strengthen visions, structures and practices that are aligned with a more just and sustainable world, while implementing urgent and deliberate transformative changes (fundamental changes in systems, visions, opinions, structures and practices), in a way that recognizes and prioritizes the interconnection/interdependence between people and nature and addresses the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature deterioration, based on





the principles of equity and justice, pluralism and inclusion, respectful and reciprocal human-nature relations, and adaptive learning.

- Likewise, priority must be given to the conservation and restoration of water-related ecosystems, such as wetlands, rivers and aquifers, which are essential to maintaining the quality and availability of the natural resource, as well as the ecosystem balance.

4. Any other message(s) would the Ministers for the Environment wish to be considered or included in the ministerial declaration?

- Decisions adopted by the COPs of CBD (COP16), UNFCCC (COP29), UNCCD (COP16) and CITES (COP20), INC processes and progress in the negotiations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for the elaboration of a new international instrument on pandemics and the activities of the Quadripartite Partnership on One Health (WHO, FAO, WHO and UNEP).
- Emphasize the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the protection of ecosystems, recognizing traditional knowledge.
- Underline the importance of integrated gender perspectives.
- Emphasize the importance of natural protected areas.
- Highlight the urgency of addressing forest fires through comprehensive policies that include prevention, fire management and restoration of affected areas.

