Ms President,
Colleagues from all around the world,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

– Allow me to begin by expressing my gratitude to you, Ms President, and your team for the ministerial declaration for UNEA-6. This declaration strengthens international efforts to tackle triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution affecting our common environment.

– Combatting this crisis is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and implementing Agenda 2030.

– Unfortunately, today the environment is confronting unprecedented challenges. So are we.

– Our world is witnessing the highest level of armed conflicts since 1945, while simultaneously facing ecosystemic crises.

– Lithuania once again emphasizes that the biggest enemy of sustainable development is war. War precipitates ecological and humanitarian catastrophes, setting back the progress of nations by decades or even centuries.

– We have just commemorated two years since Russia initiated its full-scale war against Ukraine. As Russia persists in its reprehensible attacks, which inflict death and destruction not only upon innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure but also have a highly detrimental impact on the environment, negatively affecting Ukraine’s rich biodiversity, wildlife, and natural habitats, as well as spreading hazards to neighbouring countries.
− These crises transcend national borders and are interconnected. It is our shared responsibility to take bold actions now, and environmental multilateralism is crucial for that.

− Lithuania is undertaking bold measures to fulfil its ambitious commitments to achieve climate neutrality and full circularity by 2050.

− We have already reduced our GHG emissions by 58 percent since the 1990, while simultaneously maintaining steady GDP growth.

− We already derive more than a quarter of energy from renewables and will aim to elevate this proportion to 80% by 2050.

− To tackle the root causes of climate change and advance a circular economy, we have formulated five sector-specific roadmaps for circularity in Lithuania. Currently, we are actively advocating for innovative business models, transitioning from the sale of goods to the provision of services.

− Lithuania also lends its support to the establishment of a comprehensive strategy for water and sanitation, as well as the appointment of the UN Special Envoy for Water.

− We are presently restructuring national drinking water supply and wastewater treatment sector with the aim of enhancing the quality and accessibility of these services for all individuals.

− Ms President, dear colleagues,

− Nature plays a vital role in sustaining life on Earth, while UNEA serves as a powerful forum advocating for nature. I firmly believe that our collective commitments today will pave the way for the new norms of tomorrow.