



Tallinn, 8 February 2019

Dear Colleagues,

In the spirit of inclusiveness and transparency, I wish to inform you that on Wednesday 6 February 2019, I had a productive and constructive consultation with members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to discuss the 1st draft of the Ministerial Declaration, where I welcomed all constructive comments provided.

In my opening message to the Committee, I reminder delegates of the importance to ensure that the Ministerial Declaration is attractive to policy makers and the wider audience; short, action oriented and with less technical language; aspirational and ambitious; and contributing to the implementation the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

I also informed the meeting about the rationale behind the proposed 2025-time frame in the draft Declaration. In 2015, all member States adopted the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and I am convinced that in order to ensure implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, we as Ministers responsible for the Environment need concrete medium-term milestones. However, instead of aiming for global agreements on quantitative targets in the Ministerial Declaration, which would not take into account the different circumstances in different countries and regions, the proposal is now to set ambitious national targets by 2025, all of which are strongly guided by Sustainable Development Goal number 12; “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”.

In summary, I will invite Ministers to agree on the following key commitments in the draft Declaration for the fourth UN Environment Assembly:

- **On environmental data:** to harmonize international environmental data standards and develop global environmental data strategy by 2025, to promote the accessibility of environmental data worldwide in support of evidence-based decision making.
- **On plastic pollution:** to phase-out the most problematic single-use plastic products domestically by 2025.
- **On waste management:** to set national targets for reducing waste generation and recycling of waste by 2025.
- **On environmentally sustainable procurement:** to set national targets to promote sustainable public procurements as an important opportunity to create wider markets for sustainable, environmentally friendly products and services.
- **On sustainable finance:** to build innovative partnerships to unlock new capital for sustainable investments.
- **On stakeholders engagement:** to encourage and enable active engagement of all members of civil society.

I am very pleased to already have received important inputs from a large number of countries and stakeholders on the first draft Declaration Ministerial Declaration (these are available [here](#)), and I welcome further inputs in writing by 11 February at the latest. I will then prepare and release a second draft before the 145th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives 19 February, followed by open-ended consultations during the Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives meeting on 4-8 March 2019.

Kindly send your inputs to the UN Environment Programme Secretariat at unep-sgb@un.org and copy my Special Envoy, Mr Ado Lõhmus, at ado.lohmus@envir.ee.

Kind regards,



H.E. Siim Kiisler
Minister of Environment of Estonia
President of the UN Environment Assembly

Ministers responsible for the Environment
Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Major Groups and Stakeholders