

UNEP - UNEA-3

Key EU messages for a UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration

"Towards a Pollution-free Planet"

EU+MS submission to the UNEA President

- The EU and its Member States welcome the initiative launching a process to develop a UNEA-3 Ministerial Declaration. We fully support the objectives and form highlighted in the letters by the UNEA President of 5th April and 8th May 2017, which we believe form a good basis for a Declaration that is concise, understandable, action-oriented and meaningful. The Declaration should demonstrate the difference UNEA can make to people's everyday lives, and be appealing and attractive to the public and stakeholders.
- We support the President's recognition that all countries have a responsibility to take urgent action, to make the necessary linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate, to set out concrete ambitions to tackle pollution.
- At this stage, we would like to share a few elements that should be added or further strengthened:
 - In addition to the impacts of pollution identified in the letter, such as on human wellbeing and health, the quality of our air, water and soil, on marine environment, biodiversity and ecosystems, poverty eradication, gender, security and social and economic development, we would like to note also the links to climate, food security, food safety, consumer protection and vulnerable groups. Effectively tackling pollution can potentially bring significant benefits in all these and other areas and this should be explicitly acknowledged;
 - Recognize key sources of pollution as well as their cross-media interlinkages and the need to address pollution in an integrated way, to avoid cross-media transfers;
 - Highlight successful principles and approaches and their related benefits;
 - Recognize that sustainable consumption and production (SCP), Circular Economy and Green Economy or similar concepts are important to avoid or reduce pollution;
 - Identify areas and actions for Member States to avoid or reduce pollution. We would like to see the following added to the elements already identified:
 - improving availability of and access to relevant data and information;
 - preventive actions and a risk management approach, including cost-effective and implementable measures;
 - enhancing cooperation in addressing transboundary pollution;
 - sharing not only best available science and technology but also best practices, standards, policy instruments and tools;

- In addition to the issues identified already by the President's letter, the Declaration should request UNEP to:
 - identify opportunities to address key sources of pollution within the full range of its Programme of Work and take the lead in addressing pollution by promoting a global pollution action agenda that will help achieve implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - keep pollution-related emerging issues under review in order to develop coherent policy responses at an early stage;
 - Encourage Member States and relevant UN agencies, international fora, regional organisations and MEAs and their decision making/governing bodies to ensure mutual coherence and consistency of their activities and programs in addressing pollution and related problems whilst avoiding duplication.
 - Pending the finalisation by UNEP of the Background document for the Pollution theme, we would like to see a placeholder for possible inclusion of the recommendations of this report in the outcome document, in particular those related to the transformative actions, enablers and targeted interventions.
 - Again, we would like to thank the UNEA President for sharing his thoughts and we look forward to working with him and all other UN Member States towards a Ministerial Declaration that is acceptable to all and meaningful to the world.
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