

Columbia

2017.05.22 GENERAL COMMENTS

In general terms the approach to the inputs for the ministerial Declaration of UNEA 3 is adequate and proactive.

We consider that the statement should also be proficient and briefly mention the impacts caused by pollution (within) the three dimensions of sustainable development and use this to highlight, with concrete data, the urgency to approach it and propose solutions. To achieve this, we believe that the draft Declaration could be nurtured from the background report being drafted, particularly from the first section "Evidence of a Polluted Planet: the science, impacts and economic costs".

Focus on Environmental, Social and Economic:

The focus of the Declaration should equally encompass the dimensions of environmental, social and economic on pollution. For this reason, the Declaration should include a vision of the environmental, economic and social objectives of combating pollution and the benefits to be derived (from this).

Role of Multiple Actors:

It reflects adequately the role of different actors (private sector, civil society, governments) which is fundamental to Columbia.

Reference to the sustainable development goals and Agenda 2030.

Additionally, the Declaration should refer to the Agenda 2030 as a whole and not just the SDGs. These are only one of the components of a great agreement (Declaration). Likewise, it is also pertinent to bear in mind the deep degree of interrelationship between different goals and the objectives of the sustainable development goals. The above is required in order to avoid the duplication of efforts, and (to) take advantage of the lessons learned in forums related to pollution.

Reference to Healthy Ecosystems:

We suggest that often mention the impacts of pollution on health and also take into account the health impacts on ecosystems that are not limited to human health (alone).

World Health Organization:

We consider it important that the Declaration makes specific and explicit mention of the actions advanced within the framework of the World Health Organization, especially those related to air pollution. It is necessary to recognize the effects made in the development and elaboration of guidelines to establish maximum limits for exposure to air pollution, the thorough evaluation of different pollutants, and obtain scientific evidence that establishes the relationship between air pollution, and certain diseases and the burden of morbidity derived from this.

Finally, it is important to urge the World Health Organization to maintain its efforts in this field, providing technical support to States and maintain the investment in research on the repercussions of environmental factors on health, expanding their field of action to pollution in other environments such as soil and oceans pollution.

Next, there are related sections on specific background comments and text proposals:

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- Pollution affects everybody...

Taking into consideration the expressions of interest of member states to present the deleted resolution, we suggest – in addition o the specific comments – that the approach remains open in order to include in the future if necessary, mention of other types of pollution – such as noise – as well as the transient sources of pollution including chemicals and waste.

In order for ideas, and taking into account the comments regarding the Agenda 2030 and the health of ecosystems, we suggest:

“[Jaime to insert suggested text]”

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- Reducing and eliminating...

Suggest including in the benefits mentioned in the above paragraph, reference to the benefits (value) to biodiversity and biological processes:

[after multiple benefits add following text:

- The conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services, and the sustainable use of its components (parts).]

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- We invite...

The year is consistent with the agreed language of the Agenda on Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals. The messages of the vision are ambitious and comprehensive enough. We believe that these paragraphs are in line with the commitments we already made in the sustainable development goals:

Goal 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and diseases caused by hazardous chemicals, and air, water and soil contamination.

Goal 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating waste, and minimizing the discharge of hazardous materials and chemicals; reducing by half the percentage of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recirculation (reticulation) and reuse within global standards (safe conditions).

Goal 11.6: BY 2030, reduce the negative environmental impact per capita of cities, including (by) paying special attention to air quality and the management of municipal and other types of waste.

Goal 12: By 2020, achieve the ecologically sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release into the atmosphere, water, and soil in order to minimize the adverse effects on human health and on the environment.

Goal 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce the generation of waste through policies of prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

Goal 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all types, including pollution from land-based activities such as marine debris and nutrient pollution (via run-off/waterways).