

**Zero Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly  
“Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”**

We, the world’s ministers of environment, gathered for the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, commit to securing a pollution free future for our people and planet. And we commit to working with every possible stakeholder to rapidly explore and implement every possible solution to end the pollution of our air, soil, freshwater and oceans.

As the representatives of 193 nations, we believe that, regardless of gender or culture, faith or wealth, no child should die from dirty water or poor hygiene. No one should choke because they walk down a street or cook a hot meal in their home. No community should be contaminated by hazardous chemicals and waste. No ecosystem should be so damaged by consumer choices that it ceases to function properly. No one should be left behind as we strive to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or other international agreements. Yet it is still the poorest and most vulnerable people in society who are disproportionately affected; often paying the price for the action of the wealthiest.

This Assembly agrees that everyone on this planet has an equal right to live in a clean environment, with access to safe water, food and air. These are the most precious of natural resources. Any threat to them is a threat to our health, our society, our economy, our security and our very survival. Pollution is not new, but with the population expected to reach 10 billion people by 2050, these self-imposed threats have never been greater or more preventable.

However, we also agree that with leadership, determination, collaboration, knowledge and technology, our options for turning these threats into opportunities are increasing just as fast. The transition to a pollution free planet is not only achievable, but can help tackle poverty, improve health, reduce global warming, build peace, protect human rights, create jobs and drive economic growth. To do so, we must dramatically scale up and accelerate the solutions that countries, cities, businesses and individual citizens are already using.

Therefore, we acknowledge the magnitude of threats and opportunities reported in *Towards a Pollution Free Planet* serve and commit to preventing, mitigating and managing pollution in every form by:

- Supporting the development, collation and use of reliable scientific data. This includes better multidisciplinary indicators; more efficient data gathering and monitoring; easier access to and wider availability of information; and an increase in awareness raising and knowledge sharing. This will promote evidence based decision making in the public and private sectors, effective standard setting by all stakeholders and greater participation by citizens from all walks of life.
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- Increasing research on pollutants where the impact is not yet clear and developing policies to prevent, reduce and control pollutants where the science is clear, but actions do not yet exist.
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**Comment [PS1]:** Brazil: As an official ministerial document, the ministerial outcome document should refer to the official name of UNEA: United Nations Environment Assembly (of the United Nations Environment Programme). Kindly note that this issue has already been raised several times by different countries, including in the retreat of the UNEA and CPR bureaux in Costa Rica.

**Comment [PS2]:** Brazil: Brazil understands that a Ministerial Outcome has to be aspirational by nature. However, ministers of the environment cannot declare that “this will not continue”, because ultimately it does not depend only on them. We can commit to securing a pollution free future, but we should avoid the use of such categorical expressions.

**Comment [PS3]:** See comment above.

**Comment [DEMA4]:** The prevention aspect is very important. However, there seems to be some logic gap in the sentence. How exactly would the scenarios for population increase make pollution “more preventable”? The expression “more preventable” also hinders the logic link with the following paragraph.

**Comment [PS5]:** Brazil: Quoting “loose” numbers may raise several questions on (i) sources, (ii) methodologies, (iii) geographic scope, etc. Moreover, this data is not very useful without being properly disaggregated by region, income-levels and other factors. Presenting these numbers in an aggregate and general way actually masks out several important factors. Repeatedly using these “loose” numbers might actually compromise the negotiations of this outcome document and hinder consensus. The outcome document should be concise, straight-to-the-point, action-oriented and show commitment. Therefore, it should avoid the use of “loose” numbers.

**Comment [PS6]:** Brazil: The paragraph fails to explain how this action will relate to already existing environmental agreements. The Minamata Convention, for example, is a focused environmental agreement that targets mercury. Can it really be said that UNEA should develop global policy to mercury “where science is clear, but actions do not exist yet”? Moreover, the sentence “This will be achieved in two ways” leaves out other possible solutions, since targeting pollutants can be achieved in several other ways. ...

- Fostering economic productivity and job creation, while promoting innovation and technology facilitation.
- Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, making it easier for producers and consumers to rethink, reuse, recycle, recover and remake products, materials and services.
- Nurturing integrated urban development to create more livable villages, towns and cities, which thrive in harmony with the surrounding environment. This includes accelerating the sound management of chemicals and waste, encouraging responsible lifestyle choices, prioritizing access to clean energy and transport, and leveraging the power of big data.
- Mainstreaming pollution costs awareness to stimulate systemic and behavioural changes. This includes systematic and specific opportunity costs assessments on the impacts of pollutant activities against more sustainable alternative systems, as well as a more inclusive and participatory approach in decision-making across all sectors.
- Strengthening and enforcing more integrated policies, regulations and laws. This will be achieved by supporting institutions and building capacity; bolstering monitoring and accountability systems; and sharing best practices, standards, policy instruments and tools.
- Creating and expanding partnerships across the United Nations, as well as with governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and individual citizens. This includes emphasizing enormous potential of partnerships between different stakeholders among developing nations.

As ministers of the environment, we recognize that we are accountable for delivering on those commitments. As just a few of the 7.5 billion people living here, we urge our fellow citizens to recognize that every one of us is responsible for making that happen. And, as mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, friends, colleagues, neighbours and communities, we cannot overstate the need to make it happen quickly.

Therefore, we warmly welcome the resolutions adopted at the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. We applaud the many pledges from diverse stakeholders that address critical environmental challenges. And we restate our commitment to work towards a pollution free planet for present and future generations.

**Comment [DEMA7]:** Brazil: the proposed paragraph seems to not address the main issues. Complex issues cannot be addressed with "one size fits all" solutions. Not all countries would be in a position to promote fiscal incentives or to influence financial decisions from the private sector. Not in all cases there would be an automatic preference for "more sustainable profits of greener alternatives" instead of short term profits. To end up with relevant and achievable solutions, it would also be important to foresee inclusive participatory systems. Brazil suggests a broader version of this paragraph.

**Comment [PS8]:** Brazil: This is the only commitment that is directly related to means of implementation. For the ministerial outcome to be implementable, Brazil believes it should have a stronger focus on means of implementation. For instance, technology facilitation is not cited even once throughout the whole document.

**Comment [DEMA9]:** Brazil: This is not precise, since most of the proposals above go beyond the mandates of Environment Ministers.

**Comment [PS10]:** Brazil: The numbers may raise unnecessary questions, particularly in what regards the source of the information and its accuracy.