



WWF CONTRIBUTION ZERO DRAFT OF THE UNEA-3 MINISTERIAL OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Global Policy and Advocacy, 30 August 2017

WWF welcomes the theme of the third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) “**Towards a Pollution Free Planet**” and commends the President of the UNEA, H. E Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espelata and the UNEA Bureau for the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document released on 4 July 2017. An ambitious outcome document at UNEA-3 is essential to increase political momentum and provide strategic direction to tackle chemical and other forms of pollution and waste. Action on pollution is necessary not only to **conserve biodiversity and ecosystems, but also to ensure human health and wellbeing**, as well as the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WWF particularly welcomes the recognition of the right to live in a clean and healthy environment, with access to safe water, food and air (§4), the commitment to securing a pollution free future for our people and planet (§ 2) and the commitment to work with every possible stakeholder to find solutions (§ 1) to stop the pollution of our air, soil, freshwater and oceans.

The Zero Draft must still be strengthened to reflect the challenge of pollution and sustainable development. WWF specifically urges Member States to:

- ▶ Acknowledge the **diverse sources of pollution**, including from agriculture, aquaculture, transport, industry and food production and the imperative of tackling all land based sources of marine pollution;
- ▶ Underscore the **social, environmental and economic costs of pollution**, including the interlinkages between pollution and human health, human well-being, and poverty, as well as **climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation**;
- ▶ Acknowledge that the specific segments of population such as workers, women, children, the poor and the elderly are more affected by pollution and **commit to ensure a high level of protection for the most vulnerable groups**, notably by enforcing liability and assuring compensation;
- ▶ Highlight the **roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders**, including business and industry, governments, civil society organisations and individuals and **include accountability mechanisms** for each of the sectors to stop pollution and waste;
- ▶ Reaffirm the polluter-pays principle and the extended **producer responsibility** as key components to address pollution and waste;
- ▶ Reaffirm, the principles of Intergenerational and Intergenerational equity
- ▶ Ensure that the outcome is **coherently linked to other agreements**, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- ▶ Ensure the Outcome document is **action-oriented**, demonstrates the commitment and outlines the action areas for each stakeholder to end pollution.

WWF's PROPOSED TEXT CHANGES

WWF encourages Ministers to consider the text suggestions proposed below that could improve the zero draft of the UNEA-3 Ministerial Outcome Document to ensure a strong, ambitious and successful outcome.

→ WWF suggestions for deletions as ~~strikethrough~~ and additions red, bold and underlined.

→ Language that WWF welcomes

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

In South America, young mothers like Maria handle raw mercury in artisan gold mines, because it is the only way to make a living. In North America, families like the Kellogg's relocate to areas where their children can play outside without fear of an asthma attack. In Europe, schools like Fatima Gunic hoist flags in the playground to monitor air pollution. In Africa, communities like Ogoniland try to survive in land saturated by oil pollution. In the Middle East, residents in places like Khuzestan must breathe through the growing number of sand and dust storms swallowing their homes and closing their schools. In the Pacific, coastal communities struggle to secure adequate dietary protein from already fragile coastal fisheries damaged by industrial waste, fertilizer, climate change and pesticide pollution. And in Asia, people like 13 year old Lim Seong-joon are crippled because of chemicals being used incorrectly. In fact, during the next hour, another 1,500 people around the world will needlessly die from environmental causes.

We, the world's ~~Ministers of environment~~ and high representatives of Member States, having gathered for the Third Session of the United Nations Environment ~~A~~Assembly,

~~Environment Assembly, Declare that this cannot and will not continue. Reaffirm our commitment to securing a pollution free future for our all people and the 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~~ in order to protect ecosystems and safeguard life and the climate.

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. Yet today, nearly 2,000 children below the age of five will do just that. No one should choke because they walk down a street or cook a hot meal in their home. Yet every day, 9 out of 10 of us will continue to breathe air that is unsafe and 20,000 people will die because of it. No community should be contaminated by hazardous chemicals and waste. Yet of the 130,000 chemicals on the market, only a fraction is properly tested, labelled or tracked. No ecosystem should be so damaged by consumer choices that it ceases to function properly. Yet every year, we dump up to 13 million tonnes of plastic in our oceans and 50 million tonnes of electronic waste on our land. 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 **and healthy** environment, with access to **clean and** 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. **We must urgently act to improve human health by ensuring availability and access to clean water and food security for all by reducing and eventually eliminating the pollution of air, soil and water through unsustainable business practices and environmentally harmful subsidies.**

We must recapture and reinvest the 300 tonnes of gold buried in electronic waste every year; the \$100 billion in plastic packaging being thrown away; the \$1 trillion economic loss from exposing children to lead in paint; and the \$5 trillion spent on healthcare because of air pollution. To do so, we must dramatically scale up and accelerate the solutions that countries, cities, businesses and individual citizens are already using

ADDITIONAL PARA: We acknowledge the linkages between pollution, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and further recognise that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without tackling the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems.

~~Therefore,~~ We acknowledge the magnitude of threats and opportunities reported in **the Executive Director's background report** "Towards a Pollution Free Planet" ~~serve~~ and commit to preventing, mitigating and managing pollution in every form **while adhering to the precautionary principle and** by:

- Supporting the development, collation and use of reliable scientific data. This includes better multidisciplinary indicators; ~~more~~ **capacity for** 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.
- Targeting pollutants with focused environmental agreements and tailored action. This will be achieved ~~in two ways.~~ **using various approaches including** ~~Either by~~ developing global

- policy to prevent, reduce and control pollutants where the science is clear, but actions do not yet exist **and** ~~Or by increasing~~ research on pollutants where the impacts are not yet clear.
- Cultivating economic productivity and job creation by using incentives to increase innovation and the uptake of new technology. This makes it easier **and more attractive** for producers and consumers to rethink, reuse, recycle, recover and remake any products, materials and services.
 - **Promoting a shift to a shift to sustainable production and consumption and circular economy across all sectors, including through technology and innovation, sharing of best practices, development of standards and development of fiscal tools to address pollution.**
 - Nurturing integrated urban development to create more liveable villages, towns and cities, which thrive in harmony with the surrounding environment. This includes accelerating the sound management of chemicals and waste, **and the adoption of sustainable agricultural and aquaculture practices**, encouraging responsible lifestyle choices, prioritizing access to clean energy and transport, and leveraging the power of big data.
 - Promoting fiscal incentives to stimulate systemic and behavioural changes. This includes internalising the true **full social, economic and environmental** costs of pollution in financial **investment** decisions and redirecting **public and private** investments from the short-term profits of polluting activities to the more sustainable profits of greener alternatives. **This includes eliminating of environmentally pervasive subsidies which promote pollution.**
 - 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 **multistakeholder** partnerships across the United Nations, **between** 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 these commitments **and we strongly pledge to realize them**. 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. In the time it has taken you to read this declaration, some 200 people have died from environmentally modifiable factors; nearly half of that just from breathing. **Our decisions will be guided by the principles of intragenerational equity and intergenerational equity.**

Therefore, **We warmly strongly** welcome the resolutions adopted at the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly **and** 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 **and towards the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**