



## MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & WATER

KAS.800-2/11/1 (7)  
18 May 2020

**H.E Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn**  
Minister of Climate and Environment Norway  
President of United Nations Environment Assembly

*Your excellency,*

First and foremost, congratulations on your appointment to a very important portfolio as the Minister of Climate Change and Environment Norway. I would like to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation for your effort in coordinating the inputs as requested in your letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

We are all now facing unprecedented challenges with the pandemic which emphasizes the need for global community to relook at global environmental governance. On this regard, UNEP has been an important platform to garner support from countries to take collective actions on the many facets of environmental issues. UNEP now has a **huge role in addressing health issues caused by environmental hazards including zoonotic infections** which relate to forestry, biodiversity and wildlife (including its trade) issues. This is in line with UNEA-5's theme which is Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

While our utmost priority is to address the pandemic, our work on SDGs must continue and under my leadership, you can count on Malaysia's commitment and support to the work of UNEP and its various activities and programmes.

In response to your letter, our inputs are as following:

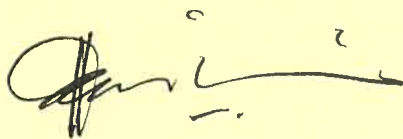
- (i) The fundamental **principal of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities** must prevail in global environment governance including discussions at UNEA;
- (ii) We need to translate SDGs into actionable implementation across all levels of society and translate development in a sustainable manner where eradication of poverty can be done without sacrificing the environment. In order for this to happen, **new and additional funding and technology transfer** is extremely important to enable developing countries to enjoy better socio-economy progress while having a development trajectory which is sustainable. We need **developed countries to fulfill their obligations with regards to means of implementations as well as**

**undelivered commitments** under various Multilateral Environmental Agreements namely those under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

- (iii) In addition, through UNEA we need to enhance:
- (a) global commitment to improve enforcement of **illegal plastic trade/movement** as well as **marine debris** issue;
  - (b) global commitment to **combat transboundary air pollutions** in particular addressing pollutant PM2.5 and PM10; and
  - (c) sharing of capacity, knowledge and technology to address new **emerging pollution and issues** including zoonotic diseases as well as endocrine disruptive compounds.
- (iv) UNEA would need to have a better streamlined structure of coordinating inputs from regions prior to its assembly. There has been a **lack of clear coordination of its resolutions and interpretation of its final drafts** during the sittings of the Assembly. Also UNEA tends to have a huge **agenda list** which makes delegations with small delegation at a **disadvantage to effectively follow on the multitude of issues** discussed. This also dilutes important issues. Therefore, it would be best for the secretariat to consider having Open Ended Working Group sessions or **preparatory meetings at least twice prior** to the sitting of the assembly to enable member states to streamline the issues, resolutions and statements. In the case of UNEA-5, we have to explore how to have this engagement given the current situation we are all in.

We sincerely hope that our views will be taken into account as you prepare for UNEA-5. We feel that the theme 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' is appropriate reflection of what the world is facing now and we need to emphasis the need to live in harmony with nature.

Please accept Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



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