



No. NAI/103/20/1

The Permanent Mission of India, Nairobi presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with reference to the forwarded letter from H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, President of UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway dated 24 April 2020, has the honour to forward the inputs of Government of India to specified questions on the ministerial declaration of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, as below:

Question No. 1: What would you, as government/organization/stakeholder, welcome as the most important elements and/or key messages from the ministers in the declaration to address the theme in an impactful manner?

Answer: The COVID 19 crisis has had devastating consequences across the world. Several Countries had to resort to lockdowns to manage the pandemic which is resulting in increased unemployment and other adverse socio-economic consequences. In this context, the Ministerial declaration must reflect the challenges Countries are facing and call for international cooperation in rebuilding economies and societies. Sustainable management and use of natural resources and an inclusive, sustainable consumption and production driven approach to economic recovery needs to be strengthened and highlighted through the Environment Assembly.

Concerted global efforts, in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, is urgently needed with developed countries taking lead in actions to mitigate climate change and provide means of implementation to the developing countries to achieve their climate action and adaptation.

The declaration should call for strengthened action to protect and restore nature and promote multiple approaches including ecosystem-based approaches to achieve sustainable development goals. Problems of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation must be dealt with an integrated manner together with addressing urgent issues of poverty eradication and hunger keeping in view the needs and aspirations of all, especially the most vulnerable.

The declaration should urge all countries to embrace sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and recognize the importance of education, training, public awareness and public participation at all levels.

Question No.2: How can the Environment Assembly make a significant contribution to Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at a global scale? In doing so, you may take into account the preparation for the meeting, its conduct and follow-up, as well as its relationship to other meetings and processes?

Answer: The United Nations Environment Assembly with a universal membership of 193 Member States is the world's highest-level decision-making body on environment, which addresses the critical environmental challenges being faced by the world today. UNEA may act as an important international platform to urge countries to adopt sustainable lifestyles along with sustainable consumption and production patterns and strengthen action towards dealing with the issues of climate change and protection of nature including biodiversity.

The United Nations Environment Assembly can contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through integrated approaches in which economic, social and environmental objectives are addressed in a balanced manner. It may recognize the usage of ecosystem based approaches for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing the role of biodiversity as an enabler and a solution for many of the SDG targets and call to develop and negotiate a robust Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Environment Assembly can also take leadership in addressing issues of new, additional and ambitious finances as well as transfer of technologies to help developing countries in scaling up their efforts to protect nature while at the same time pursuing their sustainable development goals.

The permanent Mission of India requests the esteemed UNEP secretariat to forward the aforementioned inputs of the Government of India to the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment.

The Permanent Mission of India, Nairobi avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the UNEP, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nairobi, 21 July 2020

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Nairobi**



CC:

1. **Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
Oslo**
2. **Royal Norwegian Embassy
Nairobi**