

African Council of Religious Leaders- Religions for Peace response to the Letter from the UN Environment Assembly President on the Ministerial Declaration

1. How UNEA Can Make Significant Contribution to Strengthening Action for Nature to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

- i) Through UNEA, all accredited organizations to be provided with forums to share their approaches and interventions related with addressing nature related concerns. This will enhance harmonized actions by members and accelerate realization of SDGs.
- ii) Ensure policies and strategies for a well-protected environment for impacts on the society and economies at micro and macro levels
- iii) Support a comprehensive Regional perspective on the domestication of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- iv) Active involvement in concerted and integrative global and national efforts for the preservation of rainforests and water catchment areas; and the adoption of alternative food production mechanisms that are environmentally friendly.
- v) Promotion of the use of environment-friendly alternative sources of energy that allow utmost protection of the environment. This includes the need for increased and affordable access to alternative energy sources for domestic and commercial use.
- vi) Overseeing implementation of regional and global legal instruments on climate change and adaptation and more active resourcing of environmental related actions
- vii) Involvement and support of campaigns by Faith based institutions involved in nature-based activities and stewardship of the environment

2. What would you welcome as the most important elements and/or key messages from the Ministers in the UNEA Ministerial Declaration to address the theme in an impactful manner?

- i) Mobilization of the global interfaith movement for adoption to contribute to ending tropical deforestation and cooperation with the world's religions be integrated as key messages or elements from the ministers in the declaration.
- ii) Provision of resources that effect solutions to depletion of bio-diversity while involving the indigenous, disabled and other marginalized members of the society by governments

- iii) Integral human development, through a balanced and comprehensive domestication of the 17 SDGs for effective assimilation and realization by the global population.
- iv) Ecological footprint (EF) analysis, low-carbon, climate-resilient choices by each member that can accelerate food production, and promote sustainable natural resource governance.
- v) A global inclusive green economy based on the emerging attention towards coastal and marine resource management
- vi) The nexus of forests and pandemics such as Covid 19 and the commitment to protect forests and biodiversity
- vii) Re assessment of the global environmental governance policies and harmonization of monitoring indicators that are context flexible.

3. 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.

- i) Integrate environmental interventions across all social and economic sectors
- ii) Strengthening common action by including faith-based institutions among the stakeholders in making presentations on their contributions towards nature based actions during meetings
- iii) Build up discussions on nature actions from national, regional to global levels and document and disseminate best practices for replication
- iv) Develop a Monitoring framework to consider tracking cross-cutting issues so that it can support integrated, systems-based approaches to implementation of nature-based interventions that contribute to the SDGs.
- v) Maintain Indicators that are policy-relevant; consensus-based, and in line with international standards; relevant to all members states and all people; and able to be disaggregated to track progress for all relevant groups including faith based