

Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2021 UN Environment Assembly

Inputs from the Emirates Environmental Group – UAE

We would like to thank the UNEA Presidency for updating the “Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document for the 2021 UN Environmental Assembly” and also including our inputs in the previous phase.

We look forward to participating in this process too.

Our recommendations for this phase:

1. Vision:

We would like to recommend a minor change to this –

“Urgent and transformative actions to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and improve up on and build ecosystem services are fundamental to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and rebuild a resilient and sustainable post-pandemic world.”

2. Green Recovery:

We are happy that ‘Green Recovery’ is one of the pillars of this outline document. The concept of *Build Back Better* has been highlighted across the board in the last few months and it must also be a comprehensive part of UNEA-5.

As a matter of fact, we are certain that the COVID-19 pandemic will not be eradicated by February 2021. Thus, green recovery as well as instituting green support packages will be essential.

3. The COVID-19 pandemic:

We realise that the COVID-19 pandemic has been mentioned in the document. However, there needs to be a more streamlined and focused reference to it. For example: how can UNEA-5 support developing countries through the pandemic; what will be the negative effects on biodiversity and/or the climate change initiatives in place; what kind of support packages will be available after the pandemic etc.

4. Healthy ecosystems, health people:

Under the section ‘Healthy ecosystems, healthy people’, it is important to add an extra line – *“Establishing partnerships with international health organisations such as the WHO to find more interlinkages between nature and health.”*

Apart from the above-mentioned points, we would like to recommend adding the following new concepts:

1. Shift towards circular economy:

This provides potential for innovation through the following: utilising regenerative resources, sustainable resources management, resource efficiency, sustainable marketing, waste management, product lifetime maximisation, design for sustainability etc. Thus, a holistic approach of the circular economy enables the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as the SDGs.

2. Green business development (can also be linked to green recovery):

Green businesses are synonymous with being environmentally and socially responsible; caring for their workers; protecting the communities they operate in. This conscious methodology of working and culture promotes sustainability and innovation, while maintaining competitiveness.

3. The 50th anniversary of UNEP must be mentioned in the document as a kickstart to the commemorations.

4. It is also important to mention the SDGs that are maturing in 2020 and how the shortfall will be met.