

## **Looking ahead to the resumed UN Environment Assembly in 2022 – Message from online UNEA-5, Nairobi 22 – 23 February 2021<sup>1</sup>**

The Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi,

*Meeting online* for the first part of the fifth session of the Assembly 22-23 February 2021, under exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Acknowledge* the urgency to continue our efforts to protect our planet also in this time of crisis,

*Wish to strengthen* our support for the United Nations and for multilateral cooperation and remain convinced that collective action is essential to successfully address global challenges,

*Is deeply concerned* about the devastating global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, creating new and serious health, socio-economic and environmental challenges, compounding existing ones especially in developing countries, undermining our common efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Realize* more than ever that human health and wellbeing are dependent upon nature and the solutions it provides, and we are aware that we shall face recurring risks of future pandemics if we maintain our current unsustainable patterns in our interactions with nature.

*Is deeply concerned* by the continuing loss of biodiversity, especially through the degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats for wildlife; the threats to lives and livelihoods from climate change, as well as from pollution and poorly managed waste and chemicals, jeopardizing our environment and our overarching objective of sustainable development,

*Reaffirms* the mandate of the UN Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

*Welcomes* the Medium-Term Strategy for UNEP for 2022-2025, as well as a work programme and budget for 2022-2023. We commend UNEP for its swift contribution to the environmental dimension of the socio-economic response to COVID-19,

*Is dedicated to* supporting a sustainable and inclusive recovery that protects the planet, stimulates sustainable consumption and production, revitalizes our economies and creates decent and sustainable jobs, and makes real progress in eradicating poverty, while enhancing our future resilience to similar crises,

*Will enhance* our efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and reaffirm that urgent actions are required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Underscores* the crucial importance of making further progress in all multilateral fora for the environment, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the negotiations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the negotiations on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

*Will reconvene* in person for the resumed fifth session of UNEA5 in Nairobi in early 2022 to continue our joint efforts, to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to make further progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly, including on the future of the Global Environment Outlook, and on marine litter and micro plastics,

*Is dedicated to* commemorating the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP through General Assembly resolution 2997 of 1972, and to contribute to its impactful celebration in Nairobi in early 2022,

*Urgently calls* for collective, science-based and holistic action through our work and decisions in the fifth UN Environment Assembly, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>1</sup> The Message contained in this document does not constitute a negotiated outcome of the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and shall not set a precedent for either its resumed 5<sup>th</sup> session or any of the Environment Assembly's subsequent sessions