



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Minister

Ministers responsible for the environment
UNEA Focal points in all Member States

Your ref

Our ref

Date

19/1039-246

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Excellencies, colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present an updated version of the zero draft ministerial declaration, to be considered for adoption at the upcoming resumed session of the fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), scheduled for 28 February – 2 March 2022.

The Presidency initiated the preparations for the UNEA-5 ministerial declaration already in April 2020. After two rounds of [written inputs](#) from Member States and Stakeholders, a zero draft was presented to the UNEA Bureau in October last year. The process was then put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent decision to organise UNEA-5 in two segments. The first online session of UNEA-5, held on 22-23 February 2021, endorsed a set of [consensual messages](#).

As we now look ahead towards the substantive session of UNEA-5, we wish to resume the previous consultation process and take into account what we have already achieved. The updated zero draft Ministerial declaration builds on the inputs received from Member States and Stakeholders, with a clear focus on the overall theme of UNEA-5: **Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**.

The vision of the document remains that urgent and transformative actions to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services are fundamental to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and rebuild a resilient and sustainable post-pandemic world. The declaration should also reflect important milestones during this year. We look forward to a consultation process to sharpen the relevance of the messages in the declaration and further build on the action's aspect of the theme. To this effect, we have included certain placeholders where text shall be proposed at a later stage.

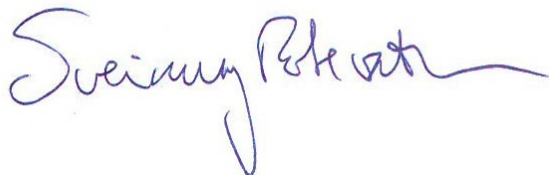
Due to the pandemic, there are reduced opportunities to consult directly with ministers and we foresee a considerable workload linked to the preparations for the resumed session. We have therefore opted to start the consultation process early and refer to the timeline below to receive further inputs and guidance from Member States and Stakeholders.

Proposed timeline for the consultation process for the Ministerial Declaration

5 October	An updated zero draft ministerial declaration to be considered at the UNEA Bureau Meeting.
26 October	Informal briefing on the consultation process convened by the UNEA Presidency during the 8 th Annual Sub-committee meeting in Nairobi, with support from the Secretariat.
Late November	Deadline for submission of inputs from Member States and Stakeholders to the zero draft of the ministerial declaration
December	<p>A revised draft ministerial declaration will be circulated.</p> <p>A <i>virtual</i> open-ended informal consultation meeting will be convened by the UNEA Presidency with support of the Secretariat.</p>
January 2022	<p>Open-ended informal consultations will be convened in Nairobi by the UNEA Presidency in the context of the CPR with support from the Secretariat.</p> <p>Circulation of a final draft of the ministerial declaration.</p>
February 2022	Open-ended consultations, as required, including in the margins of the meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 21-25 February 2022.
March 2022	Adoption of the Ministerial declaration by consensus at the resumed session of UNEA-5, 28 February – 2 March 2022.

I look forward to your constructive inputs.

Yours sincerely



Sveinung Rotevatn
Norwegian Minister for Climate and Environment and
UNEA5 President