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Discussion Document for Agenda Item 9:

Adoption of the outcome of the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

Chair's Summary of the Fourth United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

Discussion Document -- Not for quotation or citation. The purpose of this document is to facilitate discussions during the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, Suwon City, Republic of Korea, 5-7 October 2021 (hybrid). Comments are welcome and should be sent to uneproap@un.org.

*The geographical coverage of the UN Environment Programme's Asia-Pacific office includes 41 Member States: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (the Republic of), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

I. Overview

1. The Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly organized the fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific from 5-7 October 2021, in Suwon City, Republic of Korea. The Forum focused on the theme of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. The Forum was attended by the following countries served by the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Korea (the Republic of), Lao PDR, Marshall Islands, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam. Participants included High-Level Representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organizations, and representatives of civil society groups.

2. The fourth session of United Nations Environment Programme's Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific comprised of a Senior Officials Segment on 6 October and a Ministerial segment on 7 October. The Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum was held on 2-3 October, the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum was held on 4 October and the Asia Pacific Science Policy Business Forum on the Environment was held on 5 October.

3. The objectives of the Forum were to discuss:

- Progress in the region in implementing resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme; and identification of regional priorities for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals', from an Asia and the Pacific perspective.

II. Opening of the session

4. Agenda item 5 (a) the Opening of the session, was presided over by H.E. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State of Singapore and Chair of the Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific.

5. H.E. Han Jeoung-ae, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea made welcome remarks and noted the importance of listening to the voice of future generations. The Forum provides a platform for governments, partners and the future generation to discuss sustainable development and green recovery. There is a need to protect nature as its central to a green recovery given its role as a carbon sink, source of sustainable energy and as protection against natural disasters such as floods and droughts caused by abnormal weather. Joint action for green recovery and carbon neutrality is an urgent task for all of us and there is a need to work together and develop country action plans that complement each other.

6. H.E Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, President of 5th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) and Minister of Environment and Climate of Norway, made welcome remarks and noted UNEA 5.2 is from 28 February to 2 March 2022 and there is a need for outcomes that promote action on nature. It will also be an opportunity to seek support to position UNEP as the foremost global advocate for the environment. A key deliverable includes an ambitious ministerial declaration and

zero draft is available. Political support is growing for an intergovernmental negotiating committee on a global agreement on plastics. There is an urgent need for meaningful action for both short term recovery and long-term sustainability.

7. Ms. Joyce Msuya, United Nations Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme made welcome remarks and noted that the world is facing a triple planetary crisis. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are a reality that affects all lives everywhere. Nature is in crisis and the underlying driver is unsustainable consumption and production. The need for transforming humankind's relationship with nature needs through an integrated approach, that recognizes the complex interconnections between human well-being and nature and fosters cross-sectoral collaboration was highlighted. COVID-19 recovery packages and milestones provide opportunities to maximize nature positive solutions. It was highlighted that the Environment Fund is UNEP's core fund and gives the organization the flexibility to implement the Medium-Term Strategy as agreed by all Member States, and to strategically respond to emerging challenges, such as COVID-19.

8. H.E Moon Jae-in, President, Republic of Korea gave a keynote address and noted that this Forum is first in person multilateral conference Republic of Korea has hosted since the pandemic. COVID-19 has increased awareness of need to live in harmony with nature. Global solidarity and cooperation is needed to overcome the climate crisis especially given the level of warming globally. The region is particularly vulnerable to nature disasters. Solutions include the need to combine a digital economy with a green economy with renewable energy. A shift to carbon neutrality is needed across the region. The Republic of Korea has committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 last year and is planning to enhance its Nationally Determined Contribution at COP26 through consultations with municipalities and civil society organizations. The Republic of Korea shared its Green New Deal Strategy (2021-2025), and will also expand its support for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in developing countries. The Republic of Korea also aims to host the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in 2023 and requested support from countries in the region on this.

9. H.E. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister, Samoa, gave a keynote address and noted that decisions made today shape the environment tomorrow with life changing impacts on children especially. Need to fight to protect nature and to limit global warming and confront the scourge of pollution, arrest the loss of biodiversity and stop marine ecosystems pollution. Climate change is universal and is a development issue not just an environment issue as well as a health and security concern. Samoa has put forth ambitious emissions cuts and adaptation measures, similar ambitious emissions cuts are needed across the region. The submission of ambitious NDCs was encouraged including the phase out of coal plants and supporting nature-based solutions. Need for climate smart recovery investments. Ministers of environment play a key role in highlighting the environment on national recovery plans and strengthening actions for nature. Coral reef management, supporting a blue economy, tackling illegal trade and wildlife, national data bases, sound management of chemical waste are among the challenges we face in the region. Degradation of oceans leads to severe impacts and the protection of oceans must be a critical priority. In terms of UNEP@50 we must use science and technology to inform post-COVID environmental action. A whole of society approach is needed to tackle today's challenges as well as bold decisions by leaders including at this Forum.

10. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific, gave a keynote address and noted that the theme of the Forum is critical to this region. The region is on front line of triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and degradation of nature. Not enough efforts

are yet being focused on green stimulus packages. Asia Pacific countries contribute to more than half of global emissions while emissions commitments in the region are not ambitious enough won't lead to the needed 7% reduction per year up to 2030. Coal and fossil fuel subsidies phase out are critical in the region. Air pollution also requires scaled up action to address the transboundary nature requires regional cooperation. We need a regionwide modality to strengthen cooperation and exchange of knowledge on addressing air pollution.

11. H.E. Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment of Singapore, and Chair and host of the Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, gave a keynote address and highlighted the crucial role the AP Forum has in bringing the Asia-Pacific region together to review implementation of UNEA resolutions and decisions, and to share ideas and approaches. The pandemic has exposed the fragile interdependence between ecosystem health and human well-being, and urgent action is needed to safeguard the global environment, for current as well as future generations. As such, there was a need to recommit to the sustainability agenda, and in this regard, Singapore has launched the Singapore Green Plan 2030 earlier this year as a national roadmap for sustainable development over the next ten years. There was also a need to continue to unlock solutions and shift from linear resource use models to circular economy approaches. Continued cooperation through platforms such as the UNEA and the AP Forum remained key to collective sustainability. UNEA-5.2 would deliberate on important yet cross-cutting issues including strengthening action on nature, marine litter, sustainable consumption and production, and pollution. These complex issues would require all countries to work together to find a positive way forward.

12. Mr. Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik, Representative of the Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum gave a keynote address and noted that this Youth Forum is the first of its kind and brings together youth groups across the region. There was a call upon member states for ambition on green technology and research and for UNEP to be strengthened. The UN Decade on ecosystem restoration is valuable and there was a request for a reporting framework on this which is inclusive. He noted that indigenous practices should be highlighted at UNEA@50 and Stockholm+50 and support was requested for youth to participate in these events. A Stockholm+50 youth Task Force has been established and partners and member states are encouraged to support the work of the task force. Youth representation needs to be strengthened in each subregion so as to leave no one behind and subregional commissions and bodies were requested to ensure youth and grass roots engagement. He also stressed the need for youth training to encourage entrepreneurs and generate green jobs.

13. H.E. Ban Ki-moon, President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), gave a keynote address and noted that in 2012 at Rio+20 the world committed to pursue sustainable development and it also led to the establishment of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in 2014. This Asia Pacific Ministerial Forum supports the UNEA process and deliberations. This Forum itself is a good example of a multilateral approach to thinking globally while acting regional and locally. The global pandemic reminds us of relationship between humans and nature. It was noted that we cannot negotiate with nature; we must go where nature goes and use nature to fight climate change, create green jobs and promote human wellbeing. GGGI is helping countries develop nature-based solutions through sustainable landscapes and climate smart agriculture as well as supporting countries in implementing green COVID-19 recoveries. He noted that we need to work towards carbon neutrality as climate change is being felt everywhere on the planet and fuels conflict, migration and public health risks. IPCC 6th assessment report warned that global warming will reach 1.5°C by 2040, much earlier than anticipated and that requires political will to address. He stressed the need for aspirational green growth that is sustainable and socially inclusive. It was noted that 134 countries have committed to

carbon neutrality by 2050 but only 14 countries have put this into law, including the Republic of Korea. The RE 100 (100% renewable electricity) is an initiative among businesses who have committed to 100% renewable energy use and more than 100 companies having joined this campaign to date. The Paris Agreement is a landmark and hard-earned global agreement, the Summit of the G20 Heads of State and Government in Rome in October and UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow need to be ambitious for the benefit of future generations.

14. Under agenda item 5 (b) on the Election of Officers, the Forum elected the following Bureau members:

- a. Chair: H.E. Mr. H.E. Han Jeoung-ae, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea
- b. Vice-Chair: H.E. Mr. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka
- c. Vice-Chair: H.E. Mr. Demetrio do Amaral de Carvalho, Secretary of State for the Environment, Timor Leste

15. Under agenda item 5 (c) Adoption of the agenda, the Forum adopted the following agenda:

- Opening of the session:
 - a. Opening addresses;
 - b. Election of officers;
 - c. Adoption of the agenda.
- Leadership Dialogue on Strengthening Nature Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.
- Multistakeholders' Dialogue on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50 celebration).
- Presentation of senior officials report and draft outcomes of the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific.
- Adoption of the outcomes of the fourth session of Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (*Member States primarily served by UN Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific office).
- Closing session.

III. Leadership Dialogue on Strengthening Nature Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

16. Under agenda item 6, the meeting benefited from a discussion document (UNEP/APEnvForum(4)/INF/B6) 'Leadership Dialogue on Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific', which was introduced by the Secretariat and highlighted four key areas: Nature for Poverty Eradication, Job and Economic Prosperity; Nature for Human and Ecosystems Health; Nature for Climate; and Nature for Sustainable Food Systems. At the session's dialogue, participants raised the following issues:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges, but also new opportunities to build back greener on sustainable principles to protect environment for future generations.
- Participants noted support for development of sustainable and circular economy, low carbon development, towards future economies and societies that are more sustainable and resilient, ensuring protection of environment.
- There is a need to invest in innovative solutions to achieve environment sustainability.
- Australia noted that marine litter and plastic pollution remains one of the most pressing concerns for the Pacific and noted the importance of the Pacific Regional Declaration on the Prevention of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. Australia has committed to providing support to island neighbors to tackle single use plastic in the Pacific. Australia has a national waste policy action plan to transform waste and recycling industry, recognizing the need to tackle environment issues at design stage of and to improve circularity of plastic packaging. Australia encouraged others to join in supporting the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a new global agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution
- Bhutan noted the higher purpose of development captured in its gross national happiness (GNH) and the benefit of addressing development and societal challenges while conserving nature, noting that forests mitigate climate change and provide other ecological benefits, including habitats, fresh water, livelihoods for rural communities. Bhutan has pledged to keep a minimum of 60% forest coverage and maintain carbon neutrality. A Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform has been put in place to measure progress on SDGs. National development plans have been reprioritized to ensure a sustainable recovery from COVID-19. Bhutan as the member country of the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, is fully committed to promote solidarity for collective action. Bhutan will continue to build inclusive, sustainable, and nature-based economic development for the future.
- Brunei Darussalam has put in place policies and laws to protect environment and natural resources against pollution and impacts of climate change, as well as towards a low carbon and climate resilient future, reducing overall emissions and increasing carbon sinks. It has launched a Green Protocol ensuring implementation of guidelines aimed at reducing carbon footprint from 7 land categories: energy usage, water usage, paper usage, plastic usage, solid waste disposal, management of official events, and tree planting initiatives.
- China noted the world faces severe challenges including the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Joint action is needed in the region on economic recovery, safeguarding people's and ecosystem health and sustainable food systems and climate action. In line with the 5-year National Development Plan of China, China promises to achieve goals for a sustainable future, to promote green development, systematic governance, and fulfill international responsibilities. The national 5-year plan emphasizes integrated and redoubled efforts to prevent and control pollution and carbon emissions reduction and ecological/environmental quality improvement. Priorities include green development and support to the Paris Agreement, China has assumed international responsibility commensurate to national circumstances, committed to working with countries in region for UNFCCC COP26 success. China will step up support to countries on low carbon energy and will not build new coal fired power plants abroad. Member states were invited to Kunming for COP15 on the Convention on Biological Diversity to secure a path towards harmony with nature and take global biodiversity governance to a new level.

- India noted that developing countries require support to recover from COVID-19. India has taken action on nature including ambitious commitments on climate change and is on track to achieve its NDCs, and has already achieved 24% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP between 2005-2016, and has set renewable energy targets, and is increasing the use of biofuels. India recently ratified the Kigali amendment. Mindful of finite natural resources, energy, agriculture, industry, and transport policies include environmental issues. India is committed to the global 30 by 30 initiative (a plan to conserve 30% of Earth's land and sea areas by 2030 through “area-based conservation measures”) and implementation of the global post-2020 biodiversity framework. India has committed to land degradation neutrality by 2030. India has designated 130 Marine Protected Areas for coastal management and 46 wetlands under the Ramsar Convention.
- Japan noted support for an intergovernmental negotiating committee to discuss a new global instrument on marine plastic litter and had introduced a new draft resolution for UNEA related to this. In order to achieve SDGs 14 and 15, we will require an ambitious framework at CBD COP15. Government of Japan is strengthening ties with local communities and the private sector to achieve the 30 by 30 target. Climate change, waste, chemicals, and business need to be addressed across multilateral environmental agreements to tackle biodiversity issues.
- Lao PDR’s National Socio-Economic Development Plan advocated for the determination of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an important tool to ensure longer-term environment outcomes are met as per the Green and Sustainable direction, Lao PDR noted urgent needs to counteract the COVID-19 immediate economic and social shock by investing in local communities to protect ecosystems and encourage an ecology-based economy and sustainable natural resources management where local communities are central to protecting the landscape they inhabit for mutual benefit. As Lao PDR together with UNEP is piloting the ecosystem base climate resilience which is expected to promote disaster risk reduction and preparedness, improving cross-sectoral coordination, empowering villages to invest in and benefit from improved management of forests, protected area, water and soil resources.
- Mongolia’s long-term development policy Vision 2050 has a dedicated section for green development focusing on nature conservation, sustainable production and consumption, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem related policy objectives and the strengthening of implementation measures with appropriate planning. It has committed to reducing GHG emissions by 22.7% and a total 30% of its territory will be in protected areas by 2030. Around three quarters of Mongolia’s land is facing desertification, water scarcity and pollution, and voluntary land degradation neutrality targets include expansion of forest area and zero loss of forest habitat.
- Pakistan has initiated a major Green Stimulus project, which includes three main projects to achieve multiple aims of protecting nature, creating green jobs, and poverty eradication. The 10 Billion Trees Tsunami project to plant and protect trees in mangroves, riverine forests, and alpine forests around Pakistan, through assisted natural regeneration. The Protected Areas Initiative expands protected and wilderness areas, and 15 new national parks have been notified, in addition to 30 already established. Opportunities are being created for youth, with 5,000 new jobs as nature guardians in the first National Parks Service in Pakistan. The Recharge Pakistan project seeks to divert annual floods from glacier melt water to help restore degraded wetlands, and recharge the groundwater aquifers. Learning from these projects, Pakistan noted that when we start investing in nature, nature protects us, nature delivers, and nature pays us back.

- Cambodia noted a need for a -vision for more resilient, resource efficient and inclusive development and green economy. Cambodia has adopted REDD+ and payment for ecosystems services and aims to mobilize investments to support conservation efforts. Cambodia called for regional and subregional cooperation including around the Mekong river.
- Fiji noted it has enacted legislation for legally binding net zero emissions goals. Fiji committed to ensuring 30% of its seas being assigned as marine protected areas. Fiji has shared its nationwide ban on polystyrene products which went into effect on 1 January 2021 to minimize the use of plastics. Fiji supported the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee on marine plastic litter.
- The Philippines noted that delivery under global agreements has been wanting and called for member states to support each other on finance and technology to strengthen action to protect and enhance ecosystems. Action needs to be scaled up and the global environmental agreement provide an opportunity to do this. The Philippines also cited that their compliance to its commitments to the Paris Agreement by citing its mitigation and adaptation measures that they will be implementing to attain their global commitments.
- Indonesia noted its high biodiversity and high carbon stock value of its forests. A 2018 regulation on marine waste management included national action plan to reduce 70% of marine debris by 2025 focused on 1) nationwide awareness, 2) land-based waste management 3) preventing debris leakage into oceans, 4) institution building 5) research and development. Indonesia has established a Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas (RC3S) in Bali, Indonesia. 50 cities banned the use of plastic bags. Other initiatives include a focus on green urban spaces and roadmap for domestic recycled plastic and paper waste covering 300 million tons per year.
- Islamic Republic of Iran cited success in the revitalization of Lake Urmia and plans to protect the nature of arid and semi-arid regions through nature-based solutions and lessons learned in the past in the face of climate change. Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted the need to combat sand and dust storm in the region, including through investment and use of scientific data and cooperation with other countries in the region.
- The Republic of Korea noted the country has joined global carbon neutral alliance and have made a framework act on carbon neutrality which is legally binding. Protected land and marine areas have been increased with the aim to expand carbon sinks. The country will prepare green taxonomy and double the amount of green finance by 2030. Transboundary plastic pollution needs regional cooperation. Domestically the government is using technologies to make recycling more economic viable and in this regard the Republic of Korea supports a resolution to set up an intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastics and offers to co-sponsor this resolution.

- Singapore noted that the role of nature in sustainable development could not be overstated. As a densely populated city-state, Singapore is cognisant of the need to continue greening its urban environment and finding innovative ways to weave nature into its urban fabric. Singapore is committed to protect ecologically important areas and has launched its Singapore Green Plan 2030 earlier this year, which charts a Whole-of-Nation roadmap for sustainable development. A key pillar under this roadmap is to transform Singapore into a City in Nature. Singapore is making its urban spaces greener by planting one million more trees and adding 200 hectares of new nature parks by 2030. It will also expand its Park Connector Network, so that every household would be within 10-minute walking distance from a park. Singapore would also continue conserving its rich biodiversity through habitat restoration and species recovery programmes. Singapore is taking action to safeguard its coastal and marine environment, including through working with research partners on marine species recovery programmes for marine turtles, giant clams, and several locally rare coral species. Singapore also seeks to optimise coastal resources and conservation of marine biodiversity within an urban context, through its Integrated Urban Coastal Management framework. To tackle marine litter, Singapore has in place a comprehensive waste management system to collect, manage and dispose waste, to prevent litter from leaking into oceans.
- Sri Lanka briefed on key steps for strengthening nature action. In May 2021 Sri Lanka established task force for a green socio economy. A Plastic Management Action Plan aims to reduce marine plastic pollution from land by 80% by 2030. Committed to reduce GHG emission by 14.5 % from 2021-2030; Sri Lanka has committed to achieve 70% renewable energy in electricity supply by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. Support was requested on finance and technology to scale up action and achieve common regional objectives.
- Thailand has introduced its Bio-Circular Green economic model towards development based on strengths in biodiversity, together with technological and innovation advancement. It has revised its environmental legal and policy framework through Forest Act, Community Forest Act, Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, Biodiversity Act, Climate Change Act, and is preparing a long term climate strategy and national energy plan, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2065, and increasing the production of climate friendly vehicles to 30% by 2030. Thailand is promoting carbon neutral tourism to encourage businesses to reduce GHG emission. A Climate Action Academy has been established to raise knowledge and awareness to private sector and public. Thailand has played an active role in the ASEAN region in tackling environment challenges, particularly fighting wildlife trafficking through the establishment of ASEAN Wildlife Environment Network, and the Chiang Mai statement reaffirming the ASEAN commitment to Agenda 2030 on urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of illegal wildlife product. Thailand urged an active response to the serious plastic pollution crisis as part of the Covid-19 recovery effort, noting that the Bangkok Declaration on Combatting Marine debris in ASEAN led to the ASEAN Action Plan for Combatting Marine debris. H.M. King Rama the 9th's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy provides a model to support sustainable development.

- Vietnam noted the need to prioritize nature and ecosystem restoration and to set ethical standards in dealing with nature at all levels of society. Climate change, natural resources management and environmental protection need to be indispensable criteria, not only in environmental laws and policy, but also in economic policies, project investment decisions, and development strategies. Climate change, natural resource management and environmental protection are issues that need to be integrated into investments decisions and development planning. Revolutionary changes are needed in awareness at highest level, in solidarity with all countries and all stakeholders, including managers, scientists, financial institutions and business sector. Vietnam's sustainable development approach is shifting to a green and circular economy. A new law on Environmental Protection 2020 requires fundamental changes in relationship with nature, founded on balanced development of natural ecosystems and respect for laws of nature.
- IUCN noted that through partnership and collaboration we can achieve a nature-based recovery to reach the SDGs. The right recovery investments, can address the health and economic crisis, boost societal resilience, alleviate poverty, achieve fiscal stability, and restore our environments all at the same time. The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseilles in September 2021 urged governments to invest at least 10% of global recovery funds in nature, and cited successful inspiring Asian examples, including Pakistan's "10 billion tree tsunami" combining COVID-19 recovery with nature conservation.
- Bangladesh has shared its plan 2021-2025 to meet the climate targets for 2030 as well as the Green Growth Strategy for Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability. Bangladesh also shared Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP 2100) which aims to address issues such as water and food insecurity posed by the environmental challenges. Bangladesh's Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) has proposed renewable energy methodologies, enhancing energy efficiency approaches, and mitigation and adaptation strategies, and the country is committed to implement the Bangladesh National Action Plan for Reducing Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs). In addition, Bangladesh will continue to work on its forest management and adopt innovative solutions to reducing greenhouse emissions in forests based on its nation-wide and pollution-level actions.
- The Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum urged member states to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and stop subsidizing conventional fossil-based energy sectors; to strengthen legislation regarding marine pollution vis-a-vis fishing sustainability. It was proposed that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea be amended to establish a Permanent Joint Consultative Committee to promote the establishment of marine protected areas in each country and to submit marine spatial plans. A request was made to member states to make climate education compulsory. Importance of urban-rural connectivity to be considered as policy guidance by the central and regional government was noted. There was a call to support local government and communities for access to potable water and sanitation an increased support for local, responsible, and sustainable agriculture and food preparation practices and markets and promoting reduction of carbon footprint as a key mechanism in sustainable food production systems. It was noted that a major issue revolves around non-treatment and non-segregation of waste at the sources of generation.

IV. Multistakeholders' Dialogue on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50 celebration)

17. Under agenda item 7, the meeting benefited from a discussion document (UNEP/APEnvForum (4)/INF/2) 'Multistakeholder's Dialogue on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50 celebration)', which was introduced by the Secretariat and noted that a special session of the UN Environment Assembly would be convened to mark UNEP@50 from 3-4 March, 2022, in Nairobi, in conjunction with the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly. At the session's dialogue, participants raised the following issues:

- The online sessions of UNEA on 22-23 February 2021 decided to hold a special session to mark UNEP's 50th anniversary, an event that will be held on 4 March 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, in conjunction with the second session of UNEA 5.2. This special session on UNEP50 will inspire debate on how to strengthen UNEP so as to reaffirm its position as a leading organization for environment, by strengthening UNEP's work to promote the environmental science-policy interface, its role as catalyst for implementation, and its capacity to fulfil its mandate.
- Lao PDR noted challenges remain in achieving global climate change targets, but UNEP is in a position to play a leading role in international governance, as it is mandated to address environmental issues at global and regional levels, supporting transformative changes and paving the way to fulfil environmental commitments towards the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and other multilateral environmental agreements. To assist member countries, especially vulnerable countries, to tackle pressing environmental problems, UNEP is expected to play a greater role in facilitating access to climate change finance.
- Fiji noted the past measures and initiatives in the Pacific region, including strengthening responses to climate change through the development of early warning systems, and collaboration between Fiji and UNEP on climate change, oceans, and other topics. Noting the "code red" facing humanity, at the upcoming UNFCCC COP26, Fiji will continue call for collective and urgent action to confront climate change. In addition, Fiji notes with concern the IPBES 2019 report that approximately 1 million species are threatened globally and calls for higher ambition to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The relevance of UNEP's environmental mandate is reaffirmed, and Fiji calls for continued work in partnership for the Global Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, addressing the root causes of the planetary crises, and for strengthened presence of UNEP in the sub-region.
- The Government of Indonesia has longstanding collaboration with UNEP, noting that the relationship is becoming closer in the context of increasingly complex environmental challenges, especially in the transition to green economic and low carbon development. Though this collaboration, the Government of Indonesia can mobilize awareness, identify critical bottlenecks, assess policy options, and enable implementation for the green economy, in line with the National Development Plan of Indonesia 2020-2024. In strengthening the role of UNEP to lead for the environment, it is essential to reaffirm the multilateral agenda and manage global crises. Indonesia is ready and committed to enhancing partnerships, recognizing that collaboration is a key requirement for building back better and achieving the SDGs.

- The Philippines noted that UNEP's leadership on the environment is necessary, as the environment is multifaceted and requires specialized knowledge, but also notes that UNEP is not receiving the full support of all member countries in the difficult task of safeguarding the environment. In spite of various environmental agreements initiated by different organizations, civil society organizations, governments, and all around the world, the Philippines has seen the weakening of UN system and unimplemented projects, and it believes that UNEP can play its role to bring countries together to address environmental issues. With resources dwindling, UN agencies are forced to act as intermediaries to specialized funds under global agreements, which further shows a lack of confidence in developing countries to receive resources and detracts from the important mandates of UN agencies. More direct support to agencies, especially UNEP is needed, as a dedicated institution is vital to address important issues like the environment. The Philippines encourages UNEP to continue to perform its functions while countries work for its independence and resources.
- The Republic of Korea stated that the pandemic is a clear warning sign, and that UNEP is at the centre of actions as the champion of environmental value and coordinator of different stakeholder perspectives. UNEP has been providing the scientific base for environmental policy making, as well as strategies like the Global Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, but the pandemic shows we are still facing environmental crises and interconnecting challenges. Republic of Korea suggest a One UN approach is needed, as environmental issues are multidisciplinary and require coordination to solve, citing the example of Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), in which five UN agencies collaborate to assist partner countries in planning and capacity building; many emerging economies are in need of PAGE support. Republic of Korea also noted the importance of UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP) in helping countries work towards a sustainable future.
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) noted the Stockholm Conference and the creation of UNEP as a global authority on environmental issues, and looks forward to Stockholm +50 to promote action-oriented solutions for the established global goals, and accelerated action to deliver on the 2030 agenda and foster sustainable recovery, leaving no one behind. In partnership with Kenya, support and ownership is mobilizing for Stockholm +50, while Glasgow, Nairobi and Kunming also represent import milestones. Looking forward to UNEA 5.2 and UNEP +50, such as through national action plans for sustainable consumption and production, as well as interconnectedness, implementation, and an intergenerational approach.
- The Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum noted that the UNEA 5.1 mandated for a UNEP@50 taskforce to be formed and led by the Science & Technology and Children & Youth Major Groups. As part of the task force, a "UNEP We Want" Report will be prepared. One relevant topic on UNEP@50 is on its forms of engagement, new forms of engagement and participation are essential in the period of the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond. Be it purely online or hybrid platforms and models, need to ensure that the barriers to access and participation (e.g. language barrier, barriers due to disability, Internet access, digital literacy) in youth involvement and engagement are minimal to none. Research is also being undertaken to review engagement of stakeholder groups with UNEP to strengthen such engagement in the future including on establishing a good platform for an inclusive virtual/hybrid environment is recommended.

- H.E. Justice Brian Preston, Chief Justice of Land and Environment Court, New South Wales noted the achievements of UNEP over years in environmental governance, institutional development, and facilitation of complex ideas and concepts into tangible outcomes. The Chief Justice shared examples of UNEP projects such as building legal and judiciary capacity of countries in need, implementing capacity building projects including exchange of knowledge and training for developing countries, and devising evidence-based solutions for issues such as loss of biodiversity.
- Green Climate Fund noted that global environmental governance has been strengthened since the UNEA-1, and the role of UNEP is at the center. GCF welcomed a strong pipeline of upcoming projects from countries and noted that more than 12 billion dollars have been mobilized through the Fund based on its innovative business model and UNEP will continue to be one of the most important partners.
- Development alternatives noted that there is a growing need and mutual recognition among countries that UNEP can successfully address the root causes of environment and health based on its portfolio of implementing intergovernmental projects addressing issues such as loss of biodiversity, deforestation, and numerous environmental issues.
- The Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) noted that UNEP required political will and teeth to enforce MEAs, adequate and stable resources to support countries to adopt and enforce environmental regulations that serve the interest of people and the planet over business interests. It was noted UNEP must promote evidence from diverse sources of knowledge that recognize the value of peoples' lived experiences and knowledge systems on par with institutional knowledge, to support policy decisions at the global, regional and national levels. There was a call for UNEP to support capacities to evaluate the potential impacts of new and emerging technologies on the environment and human health and to ensure multilateralism that respects every country, big or small, rich or poor, in the same way, and guarantees seats on the table for civil society, grassroots movements, the voiceless and marginalized.
- WWF congratulated UNEP on its 50th year anniversary and also congratulated all Asia Pacific States who have expressed their support for the draft resolution, led by Peru and Rwanda, to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to start negotiations on a new legally binding global agreement on plastics pollution.

V. Presentation of senior official's report and draft outcomes of the fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

18. Under agenda item 8, Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, Chair of the Bureau of the Senior Official's meeting, presented a report on the senior official's segment. The report presentation and discussion identified the following regional issues and priorities:

Review of implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly in Asia and the Pacific

19. Under agenda item 2 of the senior official's meeting, the presentation of the senior official's segment on progress in the region in the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions welcomed progress made. The presentation noted that the United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Office provides secretariat functions to: Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment; the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia; the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership; the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia; the Northwest Pacific Action Plan; and the Asia Pacific Climate Change

Adaptation Network. Regional priorities and issues for the United Nations Environment Programme in Asia and the Pacific discussed, included:

- Member States noted the importance of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific in contributing regional perspectives towards discussions at UNEA 5.2
- It was noted that while managing and recovering from COVID-19, it is necessary to focus on environmental challenges and implement UNEA resolutions to have sustainable and resilient ecosystems.
- It was recommended that UNEP continue to consult Member States widely on reports prepared to ensure the highest standards of accuracy.
- The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in Kunming, China from 11 to 15 October 2021 provides an opportunity to strengthen work on nature conservation.

On Resolution 2/6 Supporting the Paris Agreement

- Member States noted the submission of enhance Nationally Determined Contributions and strong commitment to supporting the achievement of the Paris Agreement including at the upcoming COP26 in Glasgow.
- The Republic of Korea has announced 2050 carbon neutrality declared in 2020 and noted that it is the 14th country to pass a law on carbon neutrality.
- Member States continue to support developing countries implementation of Paris Agreement to build capacity for climate adaptation and monitoring.
- Republic of Korea supports developing countries for the transition to green economy through international organizations including the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) will open a liaison office in Songdo, Republic of Korea to support action in the region.
- Thailand is attempting to synergize the actions to tackle the domestic air pollution with climate actions through strong collaboration with Climate and Clean Air Coalition to move towards the goals of the Paris Agreement.

On Resolution 4/11 Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities

- Brunei noted that it has initiated a marine debris cleanup campaign in line with the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region.
- It was noted that there is an ongoing need for concrete collaborations and strong measures to protect coastal and marine environments.
- The Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN region provides an opportunity to scale up action.
- The Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas (RC3S) has been established in Bali, Indonesia and has supported building of partnerships for action.

On Resolution 4/9 Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution

- Many Countries have been making voluntary efforts through policy and regulatory instruments augmenting waste management infrastructure to address plastic waste pollution.
- Brunei has introduced a no plastic bag day' initiative to reduce usage and has set a recycling target of 30% by 2030.

- India has recently notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment (PWM) Rules, 2021, prohibiting identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, by 2022.
- Noted that India has provided specific support to state governments to strengthen plastic waste management.
- Malaysia has adopted a Roadmap towards Zero Single-use Plastics.
- Thailand intends to address the impacts of plastic wastes by adopting “The 20-Year Roadmap for Plastic Waste Management (2018-2037)”, to accelerate the management of plastic waste at source.

On Resolution 4/12 Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangrove

- Indonesia is accelerating mangrove restoration and has supported the restoration of degraded mangrove areas.

On Resolution 4/13 Sustainable coral reefs management; Resolution 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management

- Brunei noted the establishment of Coral Cay Conservation programme annual work plan.
- The coral triangle initiative of coral reefs, fisheries and food security has played a key role in strengthening partnerships and protection through Marine Protected Areas.

On Resolution 4/14 Sustainable Nitrogen Management

- India has launched neem-coated urea policy to reduce nitrogen pollution from the agriculture sector.
- Was welcomed that in 2019 member states endorsed a proposed roadmap for action on nitrogen challenges called the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, countries were encouraged to join the initiative.
- Sri Lanka has set an ambitious target to halve nitrogen waste by 2030.
- SACEP and Sri Lanka would organize a high-level event on ‘Nitrogen for Climate’ at COP -26.

On Resolution 4/16 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands

- Indonesia has enacted a Ministerial Decree on peatland on national long-term planning for protection and management of peat lands 2020 – 2049 and introduced monitoring stations.

On Resolution 4/19 Mineral Resource Governance

- Singapore placed on record its disappointment that a report referenced in the resolution did not represent Singapore in a fair and balanced manner. Singapore stressed that reports must reflect robust and objective information, to allow correct policy formulation and prevent mischaracterisation. Singapore noted that it has taken steps to reduce reliance on sand while promoting alternate construction methods and materials.

On Resolution 4/6 Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics; Resolution 3/7 Marine litter and microplastics; Resolution 2/11 Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics; Resolution 1/6 Marine plastic debris and microplastics

- Japan has supported technical training and capacity building on addressing marine plastic litter and since 2016 36 participants have completed training.

- Japan is working with Indonesia and Vietnam to develop national guidelines on marine plastic litter.
- Japan chaired the 4th meeting of Ad hoc open-ended working group on marine litter. Outcomes will be reported at UNEA 5.2 to support discussions of a new instrument.
- Malaysia has prepared a National marine litter policy and action plan 2021 – 2030.

On Resolution 3/8 Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally; 1/7 Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality

- Brunei noted that it has upgraded standards for ambient air quality monitoring.
- India is implementing National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for reducing levels of air pollution in non-attainment cities (NACs). The programme is focusing on implementation of comprehensive clean air action plans and strategies at National, State and City level for 20 to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM) concentrations.
- The 'International Day for Clean Air for blue skies' was initiated by the Republic of Korea and many other countries, and held on September 7, was welcomed as a means to increased awareness of air pollution for sustainable development.

On Resolution 4/1 Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production; 2/8 Sustainable consumption and production

- Indonesia has adopted a national framework of action for Sustainable Consumption and Production that includes an online community of practice on SCP for multi stakeholders collaboration. Plus, national guidelines for action on SCP provide clear guidance for all stakeholders on action needed.
- It was noted that there is ongoing development of an ASEAN Sustainable Consumption and Production Framework
- Malaysia has introduced a roadmap 2021-2030 towards sustainable consumption and production to move towards circular economy
- Thailand has implemented green public procurement and eco-labeling schemes and awareness raising and education among local government and city officials.

On Resolution 4/5 Sustainable infrastructure

- It was noted that UNEA Resolution on Sustainable Infrastructure is important for enhancing the cross sectoral benefits of sustainable infrastructure.
- Mongolia is promoting sustainable infrastructure and transiting to sustainable pathways including through its enhanced NDC and transport sectors.

On Resolution 2/21 Sand and dust storms

- Islamic Republic of Iran noted strong commitment to combatting sand and dust storms including allocation of funds for monitoring air quality and establishment of national standards for combatting sand and dust storms.
- It was noted that Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) has supported action on sand and dust storms.
- It was recommended to establish a regional fund or financial mechanism for strengthening global partnership to combat sand and dust storm.

Regional input to the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

A. United Nations Environment Assembly theme: 'Strengthening Nature Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.'

20. Under agenda item 3 (a) of the senior official's segment, on United Nations Environment Assembly theme: 'Strengthening Nature Actions to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, the presentation on the report on the senior official's segment noted the following issues:

- Pakistan's clean green movement to support behavioral change at community and city levels and the ten billion tree tsunami project have helped to conserve local environments, address deforestation, and generate green stimulus. A post covid national wash programme also increase access to sanitation. Single use plastic bags were banned in 2019 in Islamabad. Pakistan's NDCs will be revised to include gender and inclusivity.
- Need for nature-based solutions in the long term as part of covid recovery plans. Nature action needed includes climate change including green energy and jobs. Republic of Korea's Green New Deal responds to climate change and creates growth in nature-based manner and is completed by other strategies including a nature-based greenhouse reduction plan and climate change adaptation strategy. Need to share knowledge on nature-based solutions and support and it was noted that Republic of Korea is increasing its green ODA.
- China has attached great importance to ecological and environmental conservation and sustainable development. China has launched three battles against air, water and soil pollution. The environment has been significantly improved and the pollution reduction targets set by China has been overfulfilled. Marked results have been achieved in managing mountains, waters, forests, grassland, farmland, lakes and deserts as inherent parts of one whole ecosystem and good progress in protecting biodiversity. From the end of 2015-2020, forest coverage rate increased from 21.66% to 23.04%. The populations of more than 300 species of rare and endangered wildlife, including giant pandas and crested ibises, have risen steadily. China has implemented a national strategy on mitigation and adaptation to respond to climate change and accelerated transition to green development. China has been firmly committed to UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement and actively participated in the global climate governance and increased its NDC. In 2020, China's carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP dropped by 18.8% compared to that of 2015 and by 48.4% compared to that of 2005, exceeding the pledged target on carbon emission reduction. China has also strengthened monitoring of marine litters and control of plastic pollution. The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution Caused by Solid Waste (2020) has been revised and the Opinions on Further Strengthening Plastic Pollution Control (2020) and Plastic Pollution Control Action Plan of 14th FYP have been released by China.
- Vietnam has integrated SDGs in its national development strategies and has implemented many initiatives aimed at sustainable development at various levels and different scales. Vietnam is likely to achieve 5/17 SDGs goals by 2030, but is facing many challenges to achieve the remaining goals. A number of plans has been initiated including sustainable development and green growth strategies and action plans to shift towards responsible production and consumption. Vietnam has promulgated the Law on Marine and Island Resources and Environment; Law on Environmental Protection; National Strategy for Environmental Protection; National Action Plan on Plastic Debris, National Strategy on biodiversity conservation and now developing the National Marine Spatial Planning and Master Plan on Sustainable Exploitation and Use of sea and islands resources and environment. Vietnam commits continuing to support international and regional efforts and

promoting the implementation of sustainable development goals in Vietnam through sharing experiences and cooperating with countries and partners.

- It was noted that Asia Pacific is facing transboundary challenges which need subregional regional and global cooperation including combating marine litter and that developing countries require support to transition to a post-COVID sustainable development pathway.
- Cambodia's policy documents, such as our Updated NDC, Industrial Development Policy and the Climate Change Strategy, have emphasized on green recovery, resilience, and resource efficiency as part of a long-term strategy to attain carbon neutrality. Many other sustainability projects have been implemented too, including collaborations on sustainable mobility, sustainable management of mangrove and coral reefs, and marine plastic litter. Cambodia is further developing mechanisms to support the national implementation of international instruments, including the Paris Climate Agreement, Convention on Biodiversity, and the UNEP strategy for 2022-2025.
- Thailand reiterated the need to support developing countries in the region in moving towards the new normal solutions.

B. Draft resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session

21. Under agenda item 3 (b) of the senior official's meeting, on the draft resolutions of the United Nations Environment assembly at its fifth session, the presentation on the report on the senior official's segment noted the following priorities and issues:

- Indonesia noted that lakes contain 90% of fresh water and they are therefore important for water security, health, cultural services and energy. Lakes are threatened from increased human populations, climate change and pollution. Indonesia proposed a resolution on sustainable lake management covering 1) protection of water quality and fisheries 2) integration of lake management plans into national planning 3) capacity development for communities for lake management 4) involvement of all stakeholders 5) scientific guidance and science-policy linkages 6) development of international networking on lake management. UNEP was requested to support mainstreaming of lake management and sharing knowledge and best practices and support a World Lakes Day. Member states were encouraged to support the resolution. Indonesia recommended extending 10 year framework of programmes on SCP until 2030 and request UNEP to initiate a process to do this.
- Sri Lanka noted that they will propose a new resolution on nitrogen management given impact of nitrogen on water and air pollution particularly from agriculture where large populations face a health risk. Was noted that eutrophication is also risk for coastal populations. The resolution would call on member states to take more comprehensive actions on addressing nitrogen pollution. Sri Lanka supported Japan's resolution on plastic marine litter.
- Japan noted that they will propose a new resolution on marine plastic pollution. It was noted that an intergovernmental negotiating committee to discuss a new global instrument on marine plastic litter needed the wide participation of countries. There is also a need to understand each countries circumstances. The draft resolution would cover a general structure that countries could agree on without prejudging a global instrument. A life cycle approach would be encouraged to reduce marine plastic pollution on country by country basis with calls upon each country to further strengthen action on marine plastic litter. Japan requested countries to consider cosponsoring this resolution and noted a draft would be shared by UNEP soon after the Forum
- Republic of Korea noted that they had introduced policy measures, institutional arrangements and is developing a more comprehensive action plan on circular economy this

year. This included laying foundations for urban waste to biogas production. Republic of Korea joined the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency in 2021. Republic of Korea welcomed the proposed resolution on plastics and supports a global and legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. The ministerial declaration for UNEA's focus on circular economy was welcomed as was the need to include plastic issues in the declaration.

- Singapore supported in-principle Indonesia's proposed resolution on sustainable lake management and the extension of the 10FYP on SCP, and looked forward to reviewing the draft resolutions when ready. Singapore noted Japan's intention to table a resolution on plastics and similarly looked forward to reviewing the draft when ready. Singapore noted it was necessary to build on work already done, identify how best to catalyse global action to deliver real progress on the ground, and pin-point accurately the fundamental drivers of plastic pollution, giving recognition that marine litter and plastic pollution are primarily caused by inadequate and environmentally unsound management of waste from land-based sources. Singapore suggested providing space for countries to engage on a science-based basis, and to consider a wide range of solutions and approaches that are most practical and feasible, and which recognises that plastics continue to play a functional role in modern society.
- It was noted that in the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution in September, Australia endorsed the Ministerial Statement, joining others in calling for improved global action on marine plastic pollution through a new global agreement. Australia sees the need for a global approach that is informed by circular economy principles and the waste management hierarchy. This approach will also complement existing instruments and initiatives. Australia therefore urges others to join us in supporting the establishment of an international negotiating committee to negotiate a new global agreement at the upcoming resumed fifth session of UNEA in February 2022.
- Thailand noted need for global framework to address global plastic pollution based on a precautionary approach and common but differentiated responsibility and not duplicating existing mechanisms and that addresses any related gaps. In this regard, Thailand stands ready to support UNEA actions on plastic pollution.

C. Draft Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session.

22. Under agenda item 3 (c) of the senior official's segment, on the draft declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the presentation noted the process and timeline for finalizing the Declaration:

- An updated zero draft ministerial declaration, based on guidance from the Bureau at its meeting on 5th October 2021, will be circulated at very soon to all Member States for their feedback.
- On 26 October, there will be an informal briefing on the consultation process convened by the UNEA Presidency during the 8th Annual Sub-committee meeting
- Late November will be the deadline for submission of inputs to the zero draft of the ministerial declaration, from which a revised draft ministerial declaration will be prepared and circulated in December and will be followed by a Virtual open-ended informal consultation meeting convened by the UNEA Presidency.
- On January next year, the presidency plans to convene an Open-ended informal consultation in Nairobi. A final draft of the ministerial declaration shall be circulated as a result from the consultation.

- If required, on February 2022 another Open-ended consultations would be held, at the margins of the OECPR. It is a plan to have the Ministerial declaration adopted by consensus at UNEA 5.2

Inputs from civil society groups and other partners

23. The presentation on the report on the senior official's segment noted issues raised by the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the Asia Pacific Science Policy Business Forum on the Environment held on 5 October and the Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum held on 2-3 October 2021.

VI. Adoption of the outcomes of the fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (member States primarily served by the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific).

24. Under agenda item 9, the Forum endorsed the report of the senior officials of the fourth United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (UNEP/APEnvForum(4)/6) and this chair's summary of the fourth United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (UNEP/APEnvForum(5)/7).

VII. Closing session

25. Under agenda item 10, Ms. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UN Environment Programme, made closing remarks noted that the fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific had reviewed progress in the implementation of resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and identified regional inputs to the outcomes of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

26. H.E. Han Jeoung-ae, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea made closing remarks.

27. The Chair's summary and report of the senior officials of the fourth United Nations Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific would be communicated to the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its preparatory processes and other relevant forums, including the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

28. The Forum expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for their hospitality and support to the meeting.