

IMMEDIATE

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The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Environment Programme presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme and has the honour to refer to the email of Mr. Ulf Bjornholm, Secretary a.i. of Governing Bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) dated 3 November 2021 transmitting a letter dated 6 October 2021 from the UNEA President updating Member States on the status of UNEA-5 zero draft Ministerial Declaration and requesting Member States to submit inputs in writing on the zero draft Ministerial Declaration.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission has the pleasure to transmit Thailand's comments regarding UNEA-5 zero draft Ministerial Declaration for UNEP's further action. (attachment)

The Permanent Mission would highly appreciate it if the attached documents are transmitted to the concerned authorities at the earliest opportunity.

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Environment Programme avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Programme the assurances of its high consideration.



Permanent Mission of Thailand
to the United Nations Environment Programme,
Nairobi,
30 November B.E. 2564 (2021)



A handwritten signature in black ink, written over the seal and text.

United Nations Environment Programme,
NAIROBI.

Ministerial declaration for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

“Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”

Proposed preambular section

PP1 We, the world’s Ministers for the Environment, have gathered at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, under exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

PP2 We recognize that a healthy ~~environment~~nature is ~~one of the key pillars prerequisite and foundation~~ for sustainable development,~~in all its dimensions,~~ and ~~the ecosystem that we depend on nature,~~ and ~~their services are fundamental the solutions it provides,~~ for our health, wellbeing, resilience, economy and ultimately our existence.

PP3 We note with profound concern the loss, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats for biodiversity, affecting both life on land and life ~~below~~under water, due to multiple and interlinked threats such as unsustainable management of nature and its resources, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, climate change, and pollution and littering of water, air, and soil.

NEW We note with further grave concern that the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and waste has not been met with pollution thus remaining a threat to nature and our health.

NEW [Placeholder for reference to outcomes from COP 26 Glasgow]

PP4 We are encouraged by the strength of innovation, knowledge building, and investment in green technologies currently taking place which indicate that solutions exist or can be found.

PP5 We are deeply concerned about the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on human lives and health, as well as on economies and societies, further threatening our ability to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable

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Development Goals and are aware that we face recurring risks of future pandemics if we maintain the current patterns of interaction with nature.

PP6 We recognize the need of ensuring the provision of sufficient, predictable and adequate means of implementations from developed countries and concerned international agencies to developing countries to fulfill the commitments under the resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly as well as other relevant MEAs for transformative and systemic changes and could have the opportunity to achieve more by policies and investments that address several environmental challenges simultaneously through innovative holistic approaches that truly value nature.

PP7 We reaffirm, as UNEP celebrates through a Special Session of UNEA 50 years since its establishment, its continued great importance as advocate for the global environment and express our support for further strengthening of UNEP.

Proposed operative section

OP8 We commit to supporting a green and inclusivejust recovery, with the goal of revitalizing our economies and livelihoods, contribute to poverty eradication, by mainstreaming environmental concerns into all policies and tools promoting economic recovery; making use of green economy pathways that emphasize ecosystem and knowledge-based management, and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to climate change in line with the UNFCCC and itsthe Paris Agreement.

OP9 We ~~attempt~~commit to ~~working~~ across sectors and levels of government to halt the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of ecosystems, focusing on areas of particular importance for biodiversity, through sustainable land use, effectively managing protected areas, adopting other effective area-based conservation measures, safeguarding especially vulnerable habitatsand key biodiversity areas, types of nature and eco-systems, and addressing illegal deforestation and wildlife trafficking trade, unsustainable mining, and other relevant crimes that have serious impacts on the environment.

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NEW We commit to ~~pursue and join untraditional partnerships across sectors, and working~~ with youth, ~~woman~~, indigenous peoples ~~and local communities~~, private sector and all of civil society, to develop actions that strengthen nature and turn around the persistently negative long term trend for the environment described by recent scientific reports from United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

OP10 We ~~commit~~ highlight the necessity to rethinking our approach to the use and management of nature and its resources, to advance sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through resource efficiency and circular economy policy approaches, and by integrating the proper valuation of nature and the assessment of nature-related risks in policymaking.

OP11 We ~~commit~~ re-emphasize the importance to ~~promote and strengthen~~ the nature-based solutions ~~through sustainable management of the~~ by actively protecting, sustainably managing, and restoring degraded ecosystems that provide us with food, water, and energy, are habitats for biodiversity and provide carbon storage and sequestration, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, for example ~~natural~~ forests, wetlands, and mangroves, thus underpinning our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

OP12 We ~~commit~~ determine to ~~promote~~ cooperate across sectors and levels of government ~~to transform our~~ the food systems; in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inspired by the UN Food Systems Summit vision of ~~while enhancing the~~ sustainable food systems that deliver enhanced food security and resilience while reducing emissions, biodiversity loss and freshwater use, as an essential solution to accelerate actions on all the Sustainable Development Goals, ~~and we underline the natural role of UNEP in the Summit follow-up processes.~~

OP13 We will promote comprehensive land use planning taking into account national circumstances and priorities backed up by robust national enforcement as ~~an invaluable~~

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tool for sustainable development and help create a conducive business environment that stimulates investments in sustainable production and value chains.

OP14 We commit to safeguarding life ~~under below~~ water, and a clean, healthy, and productive ocean capable of providing food, livelihoods, and storing carbon, through strengthening efforts to sustainably manage all our oceans, as well as by sustainably using and protecting oceans, seas and coastal ecosystems, while acting to prevent pollution, and prevent marine temperature rise and ocean acidification, by keeping our efforts in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the UNFCCC and itsthe Paris agreement.

OP15 We maintain our dedication to act in line with the implementation plan towards a pollution-free planet to protect nature and human health from adverse impacts from chemicals and waste and support an ambitious framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

OP16 [Placeholder for text with reference to recent developments and outcomes on Marine Litter]

OP17 We reaffirm the continued need to strengthen actions for nature and our commitment towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and call for ~~an ambitious and transformational~~ the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ~~for adoption~~ at the 15th Conference of the Parties ~~to~~ the UN Convention on Biological Diversity ~~that inter alia includes a set of clear and robust goals and targets~~ to address the ~~direct and indirect~~ drivers of biodiversity loss, and the provision technology transfer as well as new, additional and predictable financial resources for its implementation in developing countries, as a key instrument to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

OP18 We call for the adequate and coherent implementation of the actions, commitments and resolutions adopted by the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly as well as previous UNEA outcomes, and further recognize our role, as Ministers of the Environment, in following up on these commitments within our own governments, contributing to coordinated action across sectors and levels of government and promoting effective implementation.

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OP19 We recognize that the effective implementation of these actions requires enabling and coherent policy frameworks at all levels, good governance ~~and law enforcement~~ at all levels, taking into account national circumstances, to be supported by effective means of implementation from all sources of finance, including domestic, international, private sector and innovative sources in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and based on the principles under the Rio Declaration of Environment and Development, as well as further capacity-building, environmentally sound technologies, dedicated development partnerships, and a renewed and strong commitment to multilateralism.