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**United Nations
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United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**

Fifth session

Nairobi (hybrid), 22–26 February 2021 and 28 February–2 March 2022*

Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

International environmental policy and governance issues

**Compilation of statements and recommendations by major
groups and stakeholders from Africa, West Asia, Europe, Asia
and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean for
consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at
its resumed fifth session**

Note by the secretariat

1. The annex to the present note sets out the outcomes of regional consultative meetings of major groups and stakeholders in Africa, West Asia, Europe, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean that were held in 2021 in preparation for the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. The annex also includes the summary outcomes of the consultations held in North America in 2020 in preparation for the online and in-person meetings of the fifth session.^[1] The statements, key messages and recommendations of the regional consultative meetings are reproduced as received, without formal editing.
2. The meetings that led to the preparation of these documents included consultations on the theme of the fifth session, “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, and on other issues such as “A sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the SDGs”, “Plastic and marine pollution”, “Chemical pollution and waste management”, “UNEP@50” and “Stockholm+50”.
3. Some of the statements and recommendations were or will be submitted to regional ministerial forums for their consideration, including the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at its eighteenth session, the fourth session of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific and the ministerial preparatory consultation on the in-person meeting of the

* In accordance with the decisions taken by the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its meeting held on 8 October 2020 and by the bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at their joint meeting held on 1 December 2020, the fifth session of the Environment Assembly was adjourned on 23 February 2021 and is expected to resume as an in-person meeting in February 2022.

** UNEP/EA.5/1/Rev.2.

^[1] “North American full regional input to UNEA-5”, available from

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34870/North%20American%20Regional%20Input%20to%20UNEA-5%2c%20final.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y>

fifth session of the Environment Assembly for the West Asia region as well as the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean at its special session planned for January 2022.

Annex

Compilation of statements and recommendations by major groups and stakeholders

I. Regional report from Africa

African Major Groups And Stakeholders Contribution And Key Messages To The First Part Of The 18th Ordinary Session Of The African Ministerial Conference On The Environment (Amcen 18.1) And The Second Part Of The Fifth Un Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2)

Full statement (English Version)

We, the Major Groups and Stakeholders from the African region,

Having gathered virtually to discuss how to secure people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa and our contribution to the First part of the 18th Session of the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

Have agreed on the following key messages to AMCEN:

We are deeply alarmed by the recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report that raises further concerns to the African continent as the most adversely impacted by Climate Change with, among other issues, having the highest increased surface temperature, sea level rise, and frequency and intensity of the climate extreme events.

We request AMCEN to take decisive action on underlying pandemic risks, unsustainable consumption and production, transformation of food systems, climate crisis, nature crisis, pollution and waste crisis as part of the commitment to implement the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) through African-contextualized approaches, such as Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for increased Resilience.

We urge AMCEN to enhance their commitment to conserving, protecting and enhancing the resilience of Africa's environment, animals, and natural resources as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

We further urge AMCEN to prioritize the sustainable management of ecosystem services, biodiversity and climate during the recovery phase in Africa and make deliberate moves to impactfully engage with the informal sector, as a backbone of Africa's economy, and where women and youth are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

We further urge the International Community, particularly Developed Countries, as well as African Countries to enhance commitments to providing adequate resources and means of implementation to address the drivers of desertification, land degradation, floods and drought. We request the International Community to support, at an accelerated pace, existing continental and regional programmes such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel, the African Renewable Energy Initiative, the African Adaptation Initiative and the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change Initiative, the Regional Climate Commissions of the Congo Basin, the Sahel Region and the Small Island States. We call on the International Community to initiate new programmes, as appropriate, to stimulate the creation of green and decent jobs for vulnerable communities in degraded areas in Africa.

We strongly encourage AMCEN to ensure that natural resources are not politicized and to instead develop transparent mechanisms, planning, programmes and action pegged on the sustainable natural capital beyond the systematic review on what is already documented about Africa. We also encourage AMCEN to integrate the findings of empirical research supported by adequate funding by African Governments in the spirit of leaving no one behind, in order to responsibly build and strengthen 'socio-economic structures' for the benefit of all its citizens without favor or discrimination, while keeping in mind the specific needs of women, youth and the most vulnerable.

We express our strong concern with the lack of participation and involvement of African Major Groups and Stakeholders in the expert meetings that ended earlier this week and request that the African Major Groups and Stakeholders be provided with timely documentation as well as timely and predictable opportunities to input in key outputs and outcomes of these meetings.

a) The African Green stimulus Programme

We stress that the economic stimulus packages designed and implemented during and post the COVID-19 pandemic provide a unique opportunity for an innovative 'green stimulus' approach that African Countries should not miss in order to address environmental issues that are a major threat to the existence and sustainability of ecosystems and decent livelihoods in Africa.

We recognize and commend AMCEN for its role in providing strategic and policy guidance for the creation of the African Green Stimulus Programme as a vehicle to promote sound environmental management for sustainable development in Africa.

We strongly encourage African Countries to adopt and support the African Green Stimulus Programme in a high priority manner on their respective national agendas through the establishment and strengthening of inclusive national platforms, empowered and supported with adequate resources, aligned with their national contexts and sectoral priorities, and that is synergized and complemented with relevant programmes across the continent.

We invite African Countries to jointly purpose to develop evidence-based assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on the environment in Africa as a priority for the African Green Stimulus Programme to contribute to the overall post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for Africa and to be able to attain the targets contained in Agenda 2063: 'The Africa We Want' and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

We emphasize the need to closely link and integrate the Africa Green Stimulus Programme with existing Blue and Green Economy, Climate Change, Biodiversity and broader Environmental initiatives, as well other novel and innovative interventions to fully support Africa's Green Recovery, while mobilizing the adequate financial and technical resources to upscale and enhance the implantation of these initiatives.

We strongly invite AMCEN to tap into the invaluable resources of Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders at the national and local level, including indigenous peoples, women and youth as well as faith-based organizations to harness their capacities to contribute towards sustainable development by accelerating the impactful and inclusive mobilization of all African citizens towards sustainable green recovery with no one left behind.

We strongly recommend educating and incentivizing African Major Groups and Stakeholders, including the Private Sector, to promote, invest and engage in the African Green Stimulus Programme, with a view to create decent and green jobs in Africa and sustainable trade in markets for African Green products and services.

We request for the meaningful and diverse inclusion of African Major Groups and Stakeholders in, inter alia, the Coordinating Committee, task forces and work groups of the Africa Green Stimulus Programme.

b) Africa's online negotiations position

We recall and support the decision made by AMCEN during its 8th Special Session to limit virtual engagement to information sharing and not on substantive matters during this COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage African Countries to participate while maintaining a common approach for engagement in upcoming virtual engagements and highlighting Africa's challenges in virtual negotiations which result in failure to engaging meaningfully.

We caution that such support should not be used as a factor to limit Major Groups and Stakeholders active participation in preparation and during the UNFCCC COP26, including when it comes to national and regional consultations.

We deplore that the increased dependency, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, of international negotiations and conferences on the use of internet in a digital environment, has not expanded spaces for engagement and created a level playing field and has instead constricted spaces with African and Major Groups and Stakeholders as the most affected due to poor internet connectivity and funding constraints.

We take note of a growing need, in the context of online international negotiations and conferences, to consider the review and, as appropriate, the development of policies, laws, regulations and practices regulating negotiations and diplomacy while taking into meaningful account the special circumstances of Africa.

We draw the attention of AMCEN on a significant need for access to free or heavily subsidized online secure platforms as particularly key to African Countries Negotiators. We advise that the need ought to be answered effectively, inclusively and jointly by the UNEP Secretariat working with AMCEN and relevant international organizations and request that such access be extended to African Major Groups and Stakeholders.

c) Resumed session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly and other United Nations Environment Programme related issues

We urge African Countries to support the United Nations Environment Assembly's commitment to contribute to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner.

We acknowledge the decision to hold the fifth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly in two parts, an online meeting and an in-person resumed meeting, owing to the extenuating circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic experienced across the world.

We affirm that the virtual UNEA 5.1 held on February 22 to 23, 2021 was successful in the extensive consideration of urgent administrative and procedural matters governing the United Nations Environment Programme.

We acknowledge and welcome the approval of the medium-term strategy for the period 2022 - 2025 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022 - 2023 as a decision adopted by UNEA 5.1.

We encourage all African Countries to participate, share African perspectives in the discussions of substantive matters and influence the in-depth negotiations anticipated to take place in UNEA 5.2 under the theme "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

We support the statement made by the African regional group in the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly in calling for a more coordinated regional delivery of the programme of work including through strengthening UNEP in Nairobi.

We call on AMCEN to promote the effective inclusion and participation of Africa Countries in the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

d) Africa's preparations for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

We affirm that upholding and increasing international and national obligations and commitments, particularly by developed countries, as well as urgent climate action by our African countries is a matter of urgency and survival for Africa.

We invite AMCEN to echo the voices of the African leaders who participated in the Leaders' Summit of April 2021 and to position Africa at the heart of the global climate agenda.

We reiterate the need for African Countries to develop, pursue and implement their climate and sustainable development commitments. We implore AMCEN to work closely with varied sectoral innovations that can be competitive in a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by utilizing the existing mechanisms under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other mechanisms to support Africa.

We call upon our African countries to support the African Group of Negotiators during the forthcoming UNFCCC COP 26 / CMP 16 / CMA 3, to agree on a strong common regional position and by speaking with one voice in order to oblige developed countries to fulfil their commitments, including, but not limited to, emission reductions to meet the 1.5°C target, provision of adequate and predictable climate finance, progress on adaptation goal, clarity on compensation for loss and damage. We stress on the need for finalization of the Paris Agreement rulebook where elements of NDC timeframe, transparency and carbon markets are still pending.

We urge AMCEN to continue ensuring that the African countries remain committed to updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and to highlight the need for the global community, in particular developed countries, to fully support the NDCs of African Parties to the Paris Agreement, as full implementation hinges on provision of adequate means of implementation.

We call for transformative partnerships for Climate Action globally and in Africa, with meaningful engagement of African Major Groups and Stakeholders, including through the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

e) Africa's engagement in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

We call for a well-articulated and comprehensive declaration from AMCEN that prioritizes African issues for the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as agreed at the African ministers meeting on the sidelines of the 14th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in 2018.

We urge AMCEN to commit to active engagement in the negotiations and successful implementation of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework once adopted through consultations and involvement of African Major Groups and Stakeholders. We urge AMCEN to address biodiversity loss without jeopardizing benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities.

We encourage AMCEN to take an active role and agree on an African position on area-based targets for the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, considering the importance of area-based targets in Africa, at the IUCN African Protected Areas Congress, to take place in 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda.

f) Plastic and Chemical Pollution

We draw the attention to the problem of plastic pollution, a major global threat globally and in Africa and which has serious economic, environmental, and social consequences that can derail our progress towards sustainable development.

We recall that in the Durban Declaration, adopted at the 17th African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in November 2019, African Countries committed to “supporting global action to address plastic pollution which will require further work to engage more effectively on global governance issues on plastic pollution, including reinforcing existing agreements and the option of a new global agreement on plastic pollution that takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the full lifecycle of plastics”.

We are saddened that challenges such as influx of plastic products and plastic waste remain common in Africa despite the bans enacted proactively by several African countries, particularly the prohibition of the manufacture, distribution and trade of plastic carrier bags.

We stress that bans alone will not solve the issue of plastic pollution and that it must be tackled through a systemic, comprehensive and multilayered approach,, addressing failures across the full lifecycle of plastics.

We express our staunch support to the submission by the African Group at the final meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on marine litter and microplastics (AHEG) in 2020, which recommended that “UNEA-5 delivers the solution [...] by providing the negotiation mandate for a new legally binding instrument to combat plastic pollution”[1].

We further express our strong support to the Decision 3/8 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention in February 2020 which included a “call for a new legally binding global agreement to combat plastic pollution, covering the full life cycle of plastics, with a view to reducing both the quantity and the harmful qualities of plastic wastes, highlighting the elimination of the trade, production and use of single-use plastics and the substitution and re-design of such products, while emphasizing the importance of technology research and transfer, and the need for adequate financing to enable African countries to prevent plastic pollution”[2].

We therefore call on AMCEN to take two concrete steps towards ending plastic pollution at this meeting. First, we call on AMCEN to formally support the Ministerial statement produced following the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution that took place on September 1st and 2nd 2021. Second, we call on AMCEN to adopt a declaration of support for the Rwanda-Peru draft resolution that was presented during the Ministerial Conference referred to above.

g) UNEP @50 Stockholm + 50 in Africa

We recognize the strides in environment and development attained globally and particularly in Africa since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972.

We recognize and welcome the key coordinating role of UNEP in environmental multilateralism and the negotiations of treaties, resolutions and decisions pertaining to the environment.

We further recognize and welcome UNEP’s facilitation of global, regional and national environmental policymaking and implementation through, inter alia, the support of environmental negotiations, environmental education, environmental law, environmental assessments and the promotion of access to environmental information.

We commend UNEP for its support of and coordination with Major Groups and Stakeholders in Africa and globally.

We express our profound appreciation that the UNEP Headquarters is located in Africa, we express our firm belief that Africa must be an important component of the identity of UNEP and we invite UNEP to further strengthen its work in Africa.

We acknowledge and welcome the positive effects of the work of UNEP in driving and developing the understanding of the environment and nature through, inter alia, the science-policy interface.

We highlight the importance of commemorating the United Nations Environmental Programme in the Special Session of the Assembly devoted to the 50th anniversary of UNEP that will take place on March 3 - 4, 2022.

We pledge support and cooperation in the preparations towards this vital event.

We call on AMCEN to lend its support and active participation to a successful UNEP@50 commemoration that results in tangible and positive outcomes globally and for Africa.

We underline that the commemoration of UNEP@50 provides a key opportunity to reflect on the impact and role of UNEP in the last 50 years through a detailed analysis of UNEP as an institution focusing on UNEP's core mandates, to enable us to envision the future of the UNEP we want in Africa and globally.

We recall that the commemoration of UNEP@50 can also provide an opportunity to take stock of, endorse or adopt the outcome of the consultation process under General Assembly Resolution 73/333, entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277".

We call on AMCEN to demand an increase, particularly from developed countries, in financial support for UNEP and the implementation of its work programme.

h) Conclusion

We finally call on African leaders and AMCEN to recognize that environmental challenges in Africa cannot be attended in silos or within the constraints of national or regional boundaries, therefore, we recall the important role we play in the effective implementation of resolutions and decisions made at these fora and we request for more meaningful and constant inclusion, in particular of women, youth and vulnerable communities.

[1] <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34194/African%20Group%20Item%205.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

[2] <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32131/BamakoCOP3Report.pdf>

Contribution Et Messages Clés Des Grands Groupes Et Des Parties Prenantes Africains À La Première Partie De La 18ème Session Ordinaire De La Conférence Ministérielle Africaine Sur L'environnement (Amcen 18.1) Et À La Deuxième Partie De La Cinquième Assemblée Des Nations Unies Sur L'environnement (ANUE 5.2)

Déclaration Complète (Version Française, traduction préliminaire)

Nous, les principaux groupes et parties prenantes de la région africaine, réunis virtuellement pour discuter de la manière d'assurer le bien-être des populations et de garantir la durabilité de l'environnement en Afrique, ainsi que de notre contribution à la première partie à la 18ème session de la Conférence ministérielle Africaine sur l'Environnement, convenons des messages clés suivants à l'intention de la CMAE :

Nous sommes profondément alarmés par le récent sixième rapport d'évaluation du GIEC qui soulève de nouvelles inquiétudes quant au fait que le continent africain est le plus touché par les changements climatiques avec, entre autres, les plus fortes augmentations de la température de surface, d'élévation du niveau de la mer, de la fréquence et d'intensité des événements climatiques extrêmes.

Nous demandons à la CMAE de prendre des mesures décisives concernant les risques de pandémie sous-jacents, la consommation et la production non durables, la transformation des systèmes alimentaires, la crise climatique, la crise de la nature, la pollution et la crise des déchets dans le cadre de l'engagement à mettre en œuvre la Décennie des Nations unies pour la restauration des écosystèmes (2021-2030) et la Décennie des Nations unies pour l'océanographie au service du développement durable (2021-2030) par le biais d'approches africaines contextualisées telles que le programme d'action panafricain sur la restauration des écosystèmes pour une résilience accrue.

Nous exhortons la CMAE à renforcer son engagement à conserver, protéger et améliorer la résilience de l'environnement, des animaux et des ressources naturelles de l'Afrique dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pandémie de COVID-19.

Nous demandons en outre à la CMAE de donner la priorité à la gestion durable des services écosystémiques, de la biodiversité et du climat pendant la phase de rétablissement en Afrique et de prendre des mesures délibérées pour s'engager de manière efficace dans le secteur informel, qui constitue l'épine dorsale de l'économie africaine et où les femmes et les jeunes sont touchés de manière disproportionnée par la pandémie.

Nous demandons en outre instamment à la communauté internationale, en particulier aux pays développés, ainsi qu'aux pays africains, de s'engager davantage à fournir des ressources et des moyens de mise en œuvre adéquats pour s'attaquer aux facteurs de désertification, de dégradation des terres, d'inondations et de sécheresse, et de soutenir, à un rythme accéléré, les programmes continentaux et régionaux existants tels que la Grande Muraille verte pour le Sahara et le Sahel, l'initiative africaine pour les énergies renouvelables, l'initiative africaine d'adaptation et l'initiative pour l'adaptation de l'agriculture africaine aux changements climatiques, les commissions régionales sur le climat des bassins du Congo, de la région du Sahel et des petits États insulaires, et lancer de nouveaux programmes, le cas échéant, pour stimuler la création d'emplois verts et décents pour les communautés vulnérables dans les zones dégradées en Afrique.

Nous encourageons vivement la CMAE à veiller à ce que les ressources naturelles ne soient pas politisées et à développer plutôt des mécanismes transparents, une planification, un programme et une action axés sur le capital naturel durable, au-delà de l'examen systématique de ce qui est déjà documenté sur l'Afrique, et à intégrer également les résultats de la recherche empirique soutenue par un financement adéquat par les gouvernements africains dans l'esprit de ne laisser personne derrière afin de construire et de renforcer de manière responsable les "structures socio-économiques" au profit de tous les citoyens sans faveur ni discrimination, tout en gardant à l'esprit les besoins spécifiques des femmes, des jeunes et des plus vulnérables.

Nous exprimons notre vive inquiétude quant au manque de participation et d'implication des grands groupes et des parties prenantes africains dans les réunions d'experts qui se sont terminées en début de semaine et demandons que les grands groupes et les parties prenantes africains reçoivent une documentation en temps utile ainsi que des occasions opportunes et prévisibles de contribuer aux principaux résultats et conclusions de ces réunions.

a) Le Programme de relance verte pour l'Afrique

Nous soulignons que les plans de relance économique conçus et mis en œuvre pendant et après la pandémie de COVID-19 offrent une occasion unique d'adopter une approche innovante de " relance verte " que les pays africains ne devraient

pas manquer afin de s'attaquer aux problèmes environnementaux qui constituent une menace majeure pour l'existence et la durabilité des écosystèmes et des moyens de subsistance décentes en Afrique.

Nous reconnaissons et félicitons la CMAE pour le rôle qu'elle a joué en fournissant des orientations stratégiques et politiques pour la création du Programme de relance verte pour l'Afrique en tant que véhicule de promotion d'une gestion environnementale saine pour le développement durable en Afrique.

Nous encourageons vivement les pays africains à adopter et à soutenir le Programme de relance verte pour l'Afrique en lui accordant une priorité élevée dans leurs agendas nationaux respectifs, par la création et le renforcement de plateformes nationales inclusives, dotées et soutenues par des ressources adéquates, alignées sur leurs contextes nationaux et leurs priorités sectorielles, et qui soient synergisées et complétées par des programmes pertinents à travers le continent.

Nous invitons les pays africains à s'efforcer conjointement d'élaborer des évaluations factuelles de l'impact du COVID-19 sur l'environnement en Afrique, en tant que priorité du Programme de relance verte pour l'Afrique, afin de contribuer au plan global de redressement de l'Afrique après le COVID-19 et de pouvoir atteindre les objectifs contenus dans l'Agenda 2063 : "L'Afrique que nous voulons" et l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, dans l'esprit de ne laisser personne derrière.

Nous soulignons la nécessité de lier et d'intégrer étroitement le Programme de relance verte pour l'Afrique aux initiatives existantes en matière d'économie bleue et verte, de changement climatique, de biodiversité et d'environnement au sens large, ainsi qu'à d'autres interventions nouvelles et innovantes, afin de soutenir pleinement la relance écologique de l'Afrique, tout en mobilisant les ressources financières et techniques adéquates pour élargir et renforcer la mise en œuvre de ces initiatives.

Nous invitons vivement la CMAE à puiser dans les ressources inestimables des grands groupes et des parties prenantes d'Afrique aux niveaux national et local, notamment les peuples autochtones, les femmes et les jeunes, ainsi que les organisations confessionnelles, afin d'exploiter leurs capacités à contribuer au développement durable en accélérant la mobilisation efficace et inclusive de tous les citoyens africains en faveur d'une relance verte durable, sans laisser personne de côté.

Nous recommandons vivement d'éduquer et d'inciter les principaux groupes et parties prenantes africains, y compris le secteur privé, à promouvoir, à investir et à s'engager dans le Programme de relance verte pour l'Afrique, en vue de créer des emplois écologiques décentes en Afrique et un commerce et des marchés durables pour les produits et services écologiques africains.

Nous demandons l'inclusion significative et diversifiée des grands groupes et des parties prenantes africains dans, entre autres, le comité de coordination, les groupes de travail et les équipes spéciales du Programme de relance verte pour l'Afrique.

b) La position de l'Afrique dans les négociations en ligne

Nous rappelons et soutenons la décision prise par la CMAE lors de sa 8^{ème} session spéciale de limiter l'engagement virtuel au partage d'informations et non aux questions de fond pendant cette pandémie de COVID-19 et encourageons les pays africains à participer tout en maintenant une approche commune pour l'engagement dans les engagements virtuels à venir et en soulignant les défis de l'Afrique dans les négociations virtuelles qui aboutissent à un échec d'engagement significatif.

Nous insistons sur le fait que ce soutien ne doit pas être utilisé comme un facteur pour limiter la participation active des grands groupes et des parties prenantes dans la préparation et pendant la COP26 de la CCNUCC, y compris lorsqu'il s'agit de consultations nationales et régionales.

Nous déplorons que la dépendance accrue, due à la pandémie de Covid 19, des négociations et conférences internationales à l'égard de l'utilisation de l'internet dans un environnement numérique, n'ait pas élargi les espaces d'engagement et créé des règles du jeu équitables, mais ait au contraire restreint les espaces, les groupes et parties prenantes africains et majeurs étant les plus touchés en raison d'une mauvaise connectivité internet et de contraintes financières.

Nous prenons note de la nécessité croissante, dans le contexte des négociations et des conférences internationales en ligne, d'envisager la révision et, le cas échéant, l'élaboration de politiques, de lois, de règlements et de pratiques régissant les négociations et la diplomatie, tout en tenant compte de manière significative des circonstances particulières de l'Afrique.

Nous attirons l'attention de la CMAE sur un besoin important d'accès à des plateformes sécurisées en ligne gratuites ou fortement subventionnées, qui sont particulièrement importantes pour les négociateurs des pays africains. Nous conseillons que le Secrétariat du PNUE, en collaboration avec la CMAE et les organisations internationales concernées, réponde à ce besoin de manière efficace, inclusive et conjointe, et demandons que cet accès soit étendu aux grands groupes et aux parties prenantes africains.

c) Reprise de la session de la cinquième Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'environnement et autres questions liées au Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Nous exhortons les pays africains à soutenir l'engagement de l'Assemblée des Nations unies pour l'environnement à contribuer à la mise en œuvre effective de la dimension environnementale du Programme 2030 pour le développement durable de manière intégrée.

Nous prenons acte de la décision de tenir la cinquième session de l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'environnement en deux parties, une réunion en ligne et une réunion de reprise en personne, en raison des circonstances atténuantes de la pandémie de COVID-19 vécue dans le monde entier.

Nous affirmons que l'ANUE 5.1 virtuelle qui s'est tenue les 22 et 23 février 2021 a été couronnée de succès dans l'examen approfondi des questions administratives et procédurales urgentes régissant le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement.

Nous reconnaissons et saluons l'approbation de la stratégie à moyen terme pour la période 2022 - 2025 et du programme de travail et du budget pour l'exercice biennal 2022 - 2023 en tant que décision adoptée par l'ANUE 5.1.

Nous encourageons tous les pays africains à participer, à partager les perspectives africaines dans les discussions sur les questions de fond et à influencer les négociations approfondies qui devraient avoir lieu dans le cadre de l'ANUE 5.2 sous le thème "Renforcer les actions en faveur de la nature pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable".

Nous soutenons la déclaration faite par le groupe régional africain lors de la cinquième Assemblée des Nations unies pour l'environnement, qui a appelé à une mise en œuvre régionale plus coordonnée du programme de travail, notamment en renforçant le PNUE à Nairobi.

Nous appelons la CMAE à promouvoir l'inclusion et la participation effectives des pays africains au Bureau de l'Assemblée des Nations unies pour l'environnement.

d) les préparatifs de l'Afrique pour la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques

Nous affirmons que le respect et le renforcement des obligations et engagements internationaux et nationaux, en particulier par les pays développés, ainsi que l'action climatique urgente de nos pays africains sont une question d'urgence et de survie pour l'Afrique.

Nous invitons la CMAE à se faire l'écho des voix des dirigeants africains qui ont participé au sommet des leaders d'avril 2021 et à positionner l'Afrique au cœur de l'agenda climatique mondial.

Nous réitérons la nécessité pour les pays africains d'élaborer, de poursuivre et de mettre en œuvre leurs engagements en matière de climat et de développement durable et implorons la CMAE de travailler en étroite collaboration avec des innovations sectorielles variées qui peuvent être compétitives dans une économie à faible émission de carbone et résiliente au changement climatique en utilisant les mécanismes existants dans le cadre de la Convention-cadre des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC) et d'autres mécanismes pour soutenir l'Afrique.

Nous appelons nos pays africains à soutenir le groupe africain de négociateurs lors de la prochaine COP 26 / CMP 16 / CMA 3 de la CCNUCC, à convenir d'une position régionale commune forte et à parler d'une seule voix afin d'obliger les pays développés à respecter leurs engagements, y compris, mais sans s'y limiter, les réductions d'émissions pour atteindre l'objectif de 1,5°C, la mise à disposition d'un financement climatique adéquat et prévisible, les progrès sur l'objectif d'adaptation, la clarté sur la compensation des pertes et des dommages et la nécessité de finaliser le règlement de l'Accord de Paris où les éléments du calendrier des NDC, de la transparence et des marchés du carbone sont toujours en suspens.

Nous demandons instamment à la CMAE de continuer à veiller à ce que les pays africains restent engagés dans la mise à jour de leurs contributions déterminées au niveau national (CDN) et de souligner la nécessité pour la communauté mondiale, et en particulier les pays développés, de soutenir pleinement les CDN des parties africaines à l'Accord de Paris, car la mise en œuvre complète dépend de la fourniture de moyens de mise en œuvre adéquats.

Nous appelons à des partenariats transformateurs pour l'action climatique au niveau mondial et en Afrique, avec un engagement significatif des grands groupes et parties prenantes africains, notamment par le biais du partenariat de Marrakech pour l'action climatique mondiale.

e) L'engagement de l'Afrique dans la quinzième réunion de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique

Nous appelons à une déclaration bien articulée et complète de la CMAE qui donne la priorité aux questions africaines pour le Cadre mondial pour la biodiversité post 2020, comme convenu lors de la réunion des ministres africains en marge de la 14e Conférence des parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique qui s'est tenue à Sharm El Sheikh, en Égypte, en 2018.

Nous demandons instamment à la CMAE de s'engager à participer activement aux négociations et à la mise en œuvre réussie du Cadre mondial pour la biodiversité post 2020, une fois qu'il aura été adopté par le biais de consultations et de la participation des grands groupes et des parties prenantes africains, et de s'attaquer à la perte de biodiversité sans compromettre les avantages pour les peuples autochtones et les communautés locales.

Nous encourageons la CMAE à jouer un rôle actif et à convenir d'une position africaine sur les objectifs par zone pour le Cadre mondial pour la biodiversité post 2020, compte tenu de l'importance des objectifs par zone en Afrique, lors du Congrès africain sur les aires protégées de l'UICN, qui se tiendra en 2022 à Kigali, au Rwanda.

f) Pollution plastique et chimique

Nous attirons l'attention sur le problème de la pollution plastique qui est un fil conducteur majeur au niveau mondial et en Afrique et qui a de graves conséquences économiques, environnementales et sociales qui peuvent faire dérailler nos progrès vers le développement durable.

Nous rappelons que dans la Déclaration de Durban, adoptée lors de la 17e Conférence ministérielle africaine sur l'environnement (CMAE) en novembre 2019, les pays africains se sont engagés à " soutenir l'action mondiale pour lutter contre la pollution plastique, ce qui nécessitera des travaux supplémentaires pour s'engager plus efficacement sur les questions de gouvernance mondiale sur la pollution plastique, y compris le renforcement des accords existants et l'option d'un nouvel accord mondial sur la pollution plastique qui adopte une approche globale pour traiter l'ensemble du cycle de vie des plastiques ".

Nous sommes attristés par le fait que des problèmes tels que l'afflux de produits et de déchets en plastique restent courants en Afrique malgré les interdictions promulguées de manière proactive par plusieurs pays africains, notamment l'interdiction de la fabrication, de la distribution et du commerce des sacs en plastique.

Nous insistons sur le fait que les interdictions ne suffiront pas à résoudre le problème de la pollution plastique et qu'il faut s'attaquer à ce problème par une approche systémique, en s'attaquant aux défaillances sur l'ensemble du cycle de vie des plastiques, ce qui nécessite une approche globale et à plusieurs niveaux.

Nous exprimons notre soutien indéfectible à la soumission du Groupe africain lors de la réunion finale du groupe d'experts ad hoc à composition non limitée sur les déchets marins et les microplastiques (AHEG) en 2020, qui a recommandé que " l'UNEA-5 apporte la solution [...] en fournissant le mandat de négociation d'un nouvel instrument juridiquement contraignant pour lutter contre la pollution plastique "[1].

Nous exprimons en outre notre ferme soutien à la décision 3/8 de la troisième réunion de la Conférence des parties à la Convention de Bamako en février 2020, qui comprend un "appel à un nouvel accord mondial juridiquement contraignant pour lutter contre la pollution plastique, couvrant le cycle de vie complet des plastiques, en vue de réduire à la fois la quantité et les qualités nocives des déchets plastiques, en mettant l'accent sur l'élimination du commerce, de la production et de l'utilisation des plastiques à usage unique, ainsi que sur la substitution et la reconception de ces produits, tout en soulignant l'importance de la recherche et du transfert de technologies, et la nécessité d'un financement adéquat pour permettre aux pays africains de prévenir la pollution plastique"[2].

Nous demandons donc à la CMAE de prendre deux mesures concrètes pour mettre fin à la pollution plastique lors de cette réunion. Premièrement, nous demandons à la CMAE de soutenir officiellement la déclaration ministérielle produite à la suite de la Conférence ministérielle sur les déchets marins et la pollution plastique qui a eu lieu les 1^{er} et 2^e septembre 2021. Deuxièmement, nous demandons à la CMAE d'adopter une déclaration de soutien au projet de résolution Rwanda-Pérou qui a été présenté lors de la conférence ministérielle susmentionnée.

g) PNUE @50 Stockholm + 50 en Afrique

Nous reconnaissons les progrès réalisés en matière d'environnement et de développement au niveau mondial et en particulier en Afrique depuis la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement humain qui s'est tenue à Stockholm (Suède) en 1972.

Nous reconnaissons et saluons le rôle clé de coordination du PNUE dans le multilatéralisme environnemental et les négociations de traités, résolutions et décisions concernant l'environnement.

Nous reconnaissons et saluons en outre le fait que le PNUE facilite l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de politiques environnementales mondiales, régionales et nationales, notamment en soutenant les négociations sur l'environnement, l'éducation à l'environnement, le droit de l'environnement, les évaluations environnementales et la promotion de l'accès aux informations sur l'environnement.

Nous félicitons le PNUE pour son soutien et sa coordination avec les grands groupes et parties prenantes en Afrique et dans le monde.

Nous exprimons notre profonde appréciation du fait que le siège du PNUE soit situé en Afrique, nous exprimons notre ferme conviction que l'Afrique doit être une composante importante de l'identité du PNUE et nous invitons le PNUE à renforcer davantage son travail en Afrique.

Nous reconnaissons et saluons l'effet positif du travail du PNUE pour stimuler et développer la compréhension de l'environnement et de la nature par le biais, entre autres, de l'interface science-politique.

Nous soulignons l'importance de commémorer le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement lors de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée consacrée au 50e anniversaire du PNUE qui aura lieu les 3 et 4 mars 2022.

Nous nous engageons à soutenir et à coopérer dans la préparation de cet événement vital.

Nous appelons la CMAE à apporter son soutien et à participer activement à la réussite de la commémoration du PNUE@50, qui se traduira par des résultats tangibles et positifs au niveau mondial et pour l'Afrique.

Nous soulignons que la commémoration des 50 ans du PNUE offre une occasion unique de réfléchir à l'impact et au rôle du PNUE au cours des 50 dernières années, par le biais d'une analyse détaillée du PNUE en tant qu'institution, en se concentrant sur les mandats fondamentaux du PNUE, afin de nous permettre d'envisager l'avenir du PNUE que nous voulons en Afrique et dans le monde.

Nous rappelons que la commémoration des 50 ans du PNUE peut également être l'occasion de faire le point, d'approuver ou d'adopter les résultats du processus de consultation prévu par la résolution 73/333 de l'Assemblée générale, intitulée "Suivi du rapport du groupe de travail spécial à composition non limitée créé en application de la résolution 72/277 de l'Assemblée générale".

Nous invitons la CMAE à demander une augmentation, en particulier de la part des pays développés, du soutien financier au PNUE et à la mise en œuvre de son programme de travail.

h) Conclusion

Nous appelons enfin les dirigeants africains et la CMAE à reconnaître que les défis environnementaux en Afrique ne peuvent être traités en silos ou dans les limites des frontières nationales ou régionales, à rappeler le rôle important que nous jouons dans la mise en œuvre effective des résolutions et des décisions prises lors de ces forums et à demander une inclusion plus significative et constante, en particulier des femmes, des jeunes et des communautés vulnérables.

[1] <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34194/African%20Group%20Item%205.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

[2] <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32131/BamakoCOP3Report.pdf>

II. Regional report and recommendations from West Asia

Statement of the United Nations Environment Programme West Asia Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation for the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Introduction:

The West Asia region coupled with its endowment of oil resources and other factors, has made the region the scene of armed conflicts and rivalries that have swept the region and had serious impacts on the population and the environment, including oil pollution. West Asia also has one of the world's largest oil and natural gas reserves. Hence, we need to transition energy from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Our goal is to achieve sustainably produced renewable energy that is accessible to everyone as we are already suffering from the adverse impacts of climate change and pollution on vulnerable communities. Hence, we, the representatives of UNEP'S West Asia region accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders are deeply concerned about the challenges that the West Asia region faces today and we invite Member States to consider the following:

1. We are deeply concerned about the degradation of natural resources and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution in the West Asia region that is suffering from multiple forms of pollution and environmental degradation as well as natural and manmade disasters.
2. Major Groups and Stakeholders of the West Asia region are worried that some countries in West Asia are experiencing a range of insecurity conditions from a state of war, occupation, instability, and the overexploitation of natural resources. These have negative effects on the Economic, Environmental, and social dimensions of sustainable development, especially for local communities and after COVID-19.
3. We acknowledge that the countries of West Asia have long had the challenge of providing sustainable livelihoods for their populations in the fragile ecosystems of semi-arid and arid areas, facing the challenging issues of water scarcity, drought, land degradation and desertification.
4. Absence of civil society engagement with local authorities on ways for environmental policies application and environmental programs implemented to educate the community on how to protect and maintain the environment.
5. We are deeply concerned that the West Asia region which is classified as arid or hyper-arid, where climate change impacts on water resources, ecosystems, coastal zones, environmental disasters, as well as on food security and the ability to cope with extreme weather conditions.
6. We invite the West Asia region to consider UNEP @50 as an opportunity to reinvigorate cooperation and spur collective action to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, pollution and waste as well as to take a crucial step in protecting the environment in the region.
7. We invite the West Asia region to consider Stockholm+50 Declaration as an outline for "a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity" as well as an action Plan for the Human Environment for the sake of protecting and improving human environment that consider as a major issue affecting the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world.

In light of these challenges, the following was agreed upon:

1. We call the West Asia governments to take strong action to strengthen Nature's actions-based solution to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
2. We request the West Asia Member States to take mitigation measures to respond to the environmental impacts of the conflicts in the West Asia region.
3. We stress the need for governments in West Asia to take inventory of relevant international laws, identify current gaps and weaknesses in environmental protection during armed conflicts, and form recommendations to strengthen the legal framework and its enforcement.
4. We stress on West Asia Member states to take a transformative action that focuses on nature-based solutions to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution for effective and sustainable post-COVID recovery.
5. We ask West Asia region member states to demonstrate a strong commitment to fully implementing Sustainable Development Goals in the United Nations Environment Assembly 70/ 1, specifically goal no. (16) "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

6. We call on UN member states to adopt a political declaration that commits the Member States to work on a concrete Action Plan that supports the adoption of the UNHRC Resolution recognising the right to healthy environment to be achieved by 2025. This must include objectives, targets, a timeline and indicators, including legal indicators to assess the effective implementation and enforcement of environmental law, legal targets for the International Court, and, very importantly, means of implementation, including funding and capacity building.
7. We stress on West Asia member states to consider Stockholm+50 as an outline for a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” as well as the declaration of Stockholm+50 Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment for the sake of protection and improvement of the human environment as a major issue that affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world.
8. In response to the covid-19 pandemic, We call upon the West Asia governments to ensure that the recovery will not bail out those companies in the region who have contributed to biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution or that involve future pandemic risk.
9. We call West Asia governments to apply strict conditionalities and to remove any subsidies for those stakeholders contributing to the terrible environmental crises and to ensure recovery, as well as accountability measures that ensure accessing subsidies, demonstrate resource efficiency and sufficiency, emission reduction in line with UNFCCC, a zero-pollution pathway, alignment with the post2020 global biodiversity framework, and respect for local communities.
10. We encourage West Asia Governments to establish scientific and environmental engineering research centers that contribute to region’s sustainable development goals scientific data.
11. We stress on UN member states to adopt policies that address the significance of increasing daily waste in the West Asia region.
12. We encourage UNEP to provide technical expertise in developing waste management, recycling policies and preparing awareness programs that promote a culture of environmental protection.
13. We stress on West Asia Governments to actively engage and involve with non-governmental organizations on ways for environmental policies application and environmental programs implemented to educate the community on how to protect and maintain the environment.
14. We call UNEP to enhance the engagement of all accredited Major Groups and stakeholders in the region by providing training, technical expertise, and programs to overcome environmental and climate change issues.

بيان المجموعات الرئيسية وأصحاب المصلحة التابعين لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة في غرب آسيا في إطار التحضير للجمعية الخامسة للأمم المتحدة للبيئة (UNEA-5.2) لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة (اليونيب)

مقدمة:

منطقة غرب آسيا إلى جانب ما تتمتع به من موارد نفطية وعوامل أخرى ، جعلت المنطقة مسرحاً للصراعات المسلحة والمنافسات التي اجتاحت المنطقة وكان لها آثار خطيرة على السكان والبيئة ، بما في ذلك التلوث النفطي. تتمتع منطقة غرب آسيا أيضاً بواحد من أكبر احتياطيات النفط والغاز الطبيعي في العالم. وبالتالي ، نحن بحاجة إلى طاقة انتقالية من الوقود الأحفوري إلى الطاقة المتجددة. هدفنا هو تحقيق طاقة متجددة مستدامة متاحة للجميع لأننا نعاني بالفعل من الآثار السلبية لتغير المناخ والتلوث على المجتمعات الضعيفة. ومن ثم ، فإننا ، ممثلي المجموعات الرئيسية وأصحاب المصلحة المعتمدين في منطقة غرب آسيا التابع لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة ، نشعر بقلق عميق إزاء التحديات التي تواجه منطقة غرب آسيا اليوم ، وندعو الدول الأعضاء إلى النظر في ما يلي:

1. نشعر بقلق عميق إزاء تدهور الموارد الطبيعية والبيئة من الآثار الضارة للإشعاع والتلوث في منطقة غرب آسيا التي تعاني من أشكال متعددة من التلوث وتدهور البيئة ، فضلاً عن الكوارث الطبيعية وتلك التي من صنع الإنسان.
2. نشعر المجموعات الرئيسية وأصحاب المصلحة في منطقة غرب آسيا بالقلق من أن بعض البلدان في غرب آسيا تعاني من مجموعة من ظروف انعدام الأمن من حالة الحرب والاحتلال وعدم الاستقرار والاستغلال المفرط للموارد الطبيعية حيث ان هذه لها آثار سلبية على الأبعاد الاقتصادية والبيئية والاجتماعية للتنمية المستدامة ، وخاصة بالنسبة للمجتمعات المحلية وبعد COVID-19 ندرك أن بلدان غرب آسيا واجهت منذ فترة طويلة التحدي المتمثل في توفير سبل العيش المستدامة لسكانها في النظم الإيكولوجية الهشة للمناطق شبه القاحلة والفاصلة ، في مواجهة القضايا الصعبة المتمثلة في ندرة المياه والجفاف وتدهور الأراضي والتصحر.
3. ندرك أن بلدان غرب آسيا واجهت منذ فترة طويلة التحدي المتمثل في توفير سبل العيش المستدامة لسكانها في النظم الإيكولوجية الهشة للمناطق شبه القاحلة والفاصلة ، في مواجهة القضايا الصعبة المتمثلة في ندرة المياه والجفاف وتدهور الأراضي والتصحر.
4. عدم مشاركة المنظمات غير الحكومية والمجتمع المدني مع السلطات المحلية في طرق تطبيق السياسات البيئية والبرامج البيئية المنفذة لتوعية المجتمع بكيفية حماية البيئة والمحافظة عليها.
5. نشعر بقلق عميق من أن منطقة غرب آسيا المصنفة على أنها قاحلة أو شديدة الجفاف ، حيث يؤثر تغير المناخ على موارد المياه والنظم الإيكولوجية والمناطق الساحلية والكوارث البيئية ، فضلاً عن الأمن الغذائي والقدرة على التكيف.

6. ندعو منطقة غرب آسيا إلى اعتبار برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة @ 50 كفرصة لتنشيط التعاون وتحفيز العمل الجماعي للتصدي لأزمة الكواكب الثلاثة المتمثلة في تغير المناخ ، وفقدان الطبيعة والتنوع البيولوجي ، والتلوث والنفايات ، فضلاً عن اتخاذ خطوة حاسمة في حماية البيئة في المنطقة.
7. ندعو منطقة غرب آسيا إلى اعتبار إعلان ستوكهولم + 50 مخططاً لكوكب صحي من أجل ازدهار الجميع - مسؤوليتنا وفرصنا "وكذلك خطة عمل للبيئة البشرية من أجل حماية وتحسين البيئة البشرية التي تعتبر قضية رئيسية تؤثر على رفاهية الشعوب والتنمية الاقتصادية في جميع أنحاء العالم.

في ضوء هذه التحديات تم الاتفاق على ما يلي:

1. ندعو حكومات غرب آسيا إلى اتخاذ إجراءات قوية لتعزيز الحلول القائمة على الإجراءات في الطبيعة لتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة.
2. نطلب من الدول الأعضاء في غرب آسيا اتخاذ تدابير التخفيف للاستجابة للأثار البيئية للنزاعات في منطقة غرب آسيا.
3. نشدد على ضرورة قيام الحكومات في غرب آسيا بجرد القوانين الدولية ذات الصلة ، وتحديد الثغرات ونقاط الضعف الحالية في حماية البيئة أثناء النزاعات المسلحة ، وتشكيل توصيات لتعزيز الإطار القانوني وإنفاذه.
4. نشدد على الدول الأعضاء في غرب آسيا لاتخاذ إجراءات تحويلية تركز على الحلول القائمة على الطبيعة لمكافحة تغير المناخ ، وفقدان التنوع البيولوجي ، والتلوث من أجل التعافي الفعال والمستدام بعد COVID-19.
5. نطلب من الدول الأعضاء في منطقة غرب آسيا إظهار التزام قوي بالتنفيذ الكامل لأهداف التنمية المستدامة في جمعية الأمم المتحدة للبيئة 1/70 ، وتحديد الهدف رقم (16) "تعزيز المجتمعات السلمية والشاملة لتحقيق التنمية المستدامة ، وإتاحة الوصول إلى العدالة للجميع ، وبناء مؤسسات فعالة وخاضعة للمساءلة وشاملة على جميع المستويات."
6. ندعو الدول الأعضاء في الأمم المتحدة إلى اعتماد إعلان سياسي يلزم الدول الأعضاء بالعمل على خطة عمل ملموسة يتم تحقيقها بحلول عام 2025. ويجب أن يشمل ذلك الأهداف والغايات والجدول الزمني والمؤشرات ، بما في ذلك المؤشرات القانونية لتقييم فعالية تنفيذ وإنفاذ القانون البيئي ، والأهداف القانونية للمحكمة الدولية ، والأهم من ذلك ، وسائل التنفيذ ، بما في ذلك التمويل وبناء القدرات.
7. نؤكد على الدول الأعضاء في غرب آسيا أن تعتبر ستوكهولم +50 مخططاً لكوكب صحي من أجل ازدهار الجميع - مسؤوليتنا ، وفرصنا "وكذلك إعلان ستوكهولم + 50 وخطة العمل من أجل البيئة البشرية من أجل حماية وتحسين البيئة البشرية كقضية رئيسية تؤثر على رفاهية الشعوب والتنمية الاقتصادية في جميع أنحاء العالم.
8. استجابةً لوباء كوفيد-19 ، ندعو حكومات غرب آسيا إلى التأكد من أن التعافي لن ينفذ تلك الشركات في المنطقة التي ساهمت في فقدان التنوع البيولوجي وتغير المناخ والتلوث أو التي تنطوي على مخاطر جائحة في المستقبل.
9. ندعو حكومات غرب آسيا إلى تطبيق شروط صارمة وإلغاء أي إعانات لأصحاب المصلحة الذين يساهمون في الأزمات البيئية الراهبة وضمان الانتعاش ، فضلاً عن تدابير المساءلة التي تضمن الحصول على الإعانات ، وتبني كفاءة الموارد وكفائتها ، وخفض الانبعاثات بالتوازي مع اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة الإطارية بشأن تغير المناخ ، مسار خالٍ من التلوث ، ومواءمة مع إطار التنوع البيولوجي العالمي لما بعد عام 2020 ، واحترام المجتمعات المحلية.
10. نشجع حكومات غرب آسيا على إنشاء مراكز بحوث علمية وهندسية بيئية تسهم في البيانات العلمية المتعلقة بأهداف التنمية المستدامة في المنطقة.
11. نشدد على الدول الأعضاء في الأمم المتحدة لتبني سياسات تعالج أهمية زيادة النفايات اليومية في منطقة غرب آسيا.
12. نشجع برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة على تقديم الخبرة الفنية في تطوير إدارة النفايات وسياسات إعادة التدوير وإعداد برامج توعية تعزز ثقافة حماية البيئة.
13. نشدد على حكومات غرب آسيا للمشاركة بنشاط وإشراك المنظمات غير الحكومية بشأن طرق تطبيق السياسات البيئية والبرامج البيئية المنفذة لتتقيد المجتمع بشأن كيفية حماية البيئة والحفاظ عليها.
14. ندعو برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة إلى تعزيز مشاركة جميع المجموعات الرئيسية المعتمدة وأصحاب المصلحة في المنطقة من خلال توفير التدريب والخبرة التقنية والبرامج للتغلب على قضايا البيئة وتغير المناخ.

III. Regional report from Europe

UNEA 5.2 must drive impact #ForNature now Joint Regional Statement from the virtual Regional Consultation for Major Groups and other Stakeholders in the European Region held on 14 December 2021

To the UNEA 5 Presidency and Bureau

To the CPR Chair and Bureau

To Environment Ministers and the Permanent Representatives to UN Environment

From Major Groups and Stakeholders in the European Region including Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, European Union (with Norway, Switzerland and UK) and Western Balkans and Turkey

While the COVID-19 pandemic has put the brakes on our way of living, the triple environmental crises of climate breakdown, rapid biodiversity and ecosystems loss, and pollution and waste from unsustainable consumption and production patterns, impacting even the remotest corners of the planet, continue to threaten peace, health and wellbeing of current and future generations. The pandemic has laid bare the fragility of both our own and the planet's health, the lack of cooperation between Member States, CSOs and national governments and their peoples as well as the flaws in our social and economic systems with millions of people having lost their jobs without any social protection, women being particularly impacted. **The pandemic calls for courageous political decisions now to attain an equitable and sustainable future ensuring the wellbeing for all.**

The 2020 UN Secretary-General's report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals acknowledges the impacts and implications of COVID-19 as the worst human and economic crisis of our lifetimes. We need urgent joint action now to fundamentally change our production and consumption patterns and put in place policies, legislation and actions that address the triple crisis. **Therefore, we call on our governments to make the best possible use of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, to speed up global environmental decision-making with a participatory approach, and to increase the pace and scale of implementation efforts considering the imperative to vastly increase positive efforts to live in harmony with Nature and undo the harm done.**

We expect **clear solutions to emerge from UNEA 5.2**. To realise the full potential of UNEA 5.2, we need to maintain and build momentum along with the following important processes: a global response to plastic pollution, the incorporation of a Nature-centred approach in all of our actions, and the strengthening of global environmental law and governance (following Res 73/333). Strengthening global environmental governance requires the collaboration of peoples and governments working closely together to enforce environmental law at all levels (including through the Montevideo V Programme hosted by UNEP). Moreover, UNEA 5.2 needs to pave the way for addressing emerging environmental challenges that are so far not regulated, in ways fully consistent with human rights and social and gender equity.

Recognising the true value of Nature and biodiversity in achieving sustainable development and focussing on transformative changes to our relationship with other species

We agree with the draft report provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Inger Andersen, in which she stresses that Nature underpins our economies, our societies and our very existence, as our life support system, and provides us with clean air, clean water, food and shelter, as well as a means to limit the impacts of climate change. **We need to recognise and cherish the true value that ecosystems provide us with and learn to accurately interpret what Nature can teach us.** We must introduce **greater understanding of Nature-centred biodiversity-stewardship** through education and life-long learning. **Independently of our human needs, we must acknowledge the intrinsic value of Nature and biodiversity**, as recognised by the CBD, empowering those who know and discover how to live in harmony with Nature. A growing number of jurisdictions have started to codify the rights of Nature to be protected from destruction and pollution. Ecuador and Bolivia have incorporated the Rights of Nature into their national constitutions.

We need to hold the governments and companies that destroy and pollute ecosystems to account. We need governments to transpose into their legislation the newly agreed human right to a healthy environment. It is urgent to address the key drivers of destruction, including changes to land and sea use, the direct and unsustainable exploitation of organisms for commercial trade and other purposes, unsustainable diets and the agro-industrial systems that feed them, the steady increase in extraction of raw materials and the use of pesticides and other chemicals that irreversibly decimate pollinators and insects and pollute soils and water sources. The destruction and pollution of ecosystems can regularly be traced back to specific types of corporations such as those producing 'forever chemicals', mining giants,

transnational corporations in the livestock and agro-industry sector and oil companies. **We need legally binding measures to make companies liable for environmental harm across their value chains.** We also need **strong protection** for those at the frontline, our **environmental defenders**, who are often threatened and even killed when calling out harmful business practises.

Ongoing research and multilateral UN processes continue to underscore the **devastating environmental consequences of wars and armed conflict. It is vital that the legal framework to prevent harm is strengthened**, and we urge states to welcome the International Law Commission's **draft principles on the Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts** at the UN General Assembly in 2022. It is also critical that **the environmental legacy of conflicts is properly addressed** in response and recovery work. We need to develop and implement actions for Nature that can **prevent, minimise and remediate conflict-linked environmental degradation** and strengthen climate resilience in conflict-affected countries.

The **rights and vital role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in biodiversity conservation** must be recognised and supported through effective and equitable policies and regulations that recognise these rightsholders group's governance and tenure rights over their lands and territories.

The undersigned Major Groups and other Stakeholders welcome the focus of UNEA 5 environmental policies that also achieve eradicating poverty and creating quality, sustainable jobs, ensuring human, animal and ecosystem health, stopping climate change and achieving sustainable food systems. We recognise the need for all of us to ensure that the UNEA 5 process results in a transformation of **our notion of development to one that is in harmony with Nature and includes the wellbeing of all forms of life, including human beings from every walk of life.** We need government support to **end harmful business practices and to phase out toxic and polluting technologies and chemicals.** We need **Just Transition policies** and measures to support those impacted most, workers and their families and communities, and we need strong policies to tackle the root causes of existing and growing inequalities. Together, we must **stop the financing of short-sighted, unjust or false solutions** and direct funds towards regenerative and circular economies. We welcome the Human Development Report 2020: "The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene" and its recognition that a "human-centric worldview is blinding humanity to the consequences of our actions". There must be close collaboration between governments at all levels and the strong engagement of the public at large to take actions to conserve, sustainably use, and restore ecosystems and be at the forefront of planetary stewardship.

Building forward better

The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the damaging, short-sighted and unsustainable state of our current economic and social system, which is based on the overexploitation of both natural resources and the, often gendered, overexploitation of cheap or even unpaid labour undertaken in extremely poor and risky conditions. It gives us an opportunity not just to build back, but to build forward better with green and sustainable economies and societies. Let this be the wake-up call for a paradigm shift to overcome the problems deeply entrenched in our economic and social systems.

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity's Strategic Plans and other commitments made under Multilateral Environmental Agreements need to be the compass for the recovery.** They should guide the way to tackle the root causes of poverty, hunger and inequality globally, to establish social and health protection systems that are accessible to all, and to build a climate and biodiversity-friendly- and inclusive economic model that serves the wellbeing of humans, animals and the planet. We must grasp the opportunity to use UNEA 5.2 to ensure that the recovery funds will not go to bail out polluters but instead will place strict conditionalities on financial instruments for a transition towards long-term sustainability and to divest now from dirty technologies and industries. Recovery measures must privilege small and medium-size enterprises, in particular those with strong social and environmental missions and innovative, equitable business models serving local communities and economically marginalised groups like women.

We must all constantly address the link between environmental pollution and degradation and their disastrous impact on our **rights to life and health**, with **disproportionate high impacts on vulnerable populations**, including women and children, young and older people, people with underlying health problems, minorities and low-income groups. Together, we must enable formal and non-formal sustainable development education (SDG4.7) and environmental solution-focused programs that engage young people as key rights holders. And we must together stand strong for our human and environmental rights to ensure **full transparency and participation of the public and stakeholders in decision-making**, in particular around the recovery measures and the protection of the civil society space and environmental defenders, who are increasingly under threat.

Unfolding the power of strong international environmental governance, UNEP@50 and Stockholm +50

The undersigned civil society organisations and other stakeholders and rights holders strongly support the process following UNGA Resolution 73/333 (formerly known as Global Pact for the Environment). We must together **re-engage in the urgent discussion to close the gaps in international law and secure its enforcement** as identified, amongst others, in the UN Secretary-General's report on the subject. Resolution 73/333 requires a powerful and inspirational political declaration and Action Plan before February 2022 to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law and environmental governance to avoid Stockholm+50 becoming a meaningless gathering without concrete outcomes or ambitions. 2022 must be the year in which UNEA 5.2 kicks off the process to establish a Global Action Plan to strengthen and enforce environmental law by 2025. This package should include objectives, targets, a timeline and indicators, and means of implementation (cfr 2030 Agenda Process). It is critical that action on all aspects of 73/333 be our central goal at all times.

Both UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 require **close cooperation with Major Groups and Stakeholders**. We can emulate the lessons from the post-2015 development agenda process, which captured the voices and contributions of millions through transparent dialogues and consultations that informed the development of the SDGs. **Co-creation of the agendas of leadership dialogues, sufficient civil-society lead side events and co-chairmanship by civil society in particular youth** should be guiding for the organisation process.

UNEP's future role depends on the support of people. Since UNEP's inception, a healthy environment has always been referred to as a prerequisite for socio-economic development. Poverty eradication cannot be achieved without truly environmental policies and laws, while sustainability cannot be achieved without poverty eradication. We need a **powerful UNEP working closely with both governments and wider society** at all levels to tackle the delicate relationship between global wellbeing and the environment. Together we must build a sustainable economy to ensure socio-economic prosperity without the irreversible overuse of natural resources and the inevitable environmental degradation that follows. The commemoration of UNEP@50 and the 50th anniversary of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment must serve to **build a global framework for stronger environmental governance, strengthen environmental law and guarantee enforcement at the national levels**.

In 2022 it will be 10 years since world leaders renewed their political commitment to sustainable development at Rio+20. They committed to strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development articulated in **paragraph 88 of the "The Future We Want"**. However, ten years on, implementing "The Future We Want" remains woefully incomplete. This must change, and effective, transparent engagement between UNEP and civil society is key. **Stockholm+50 provides the opportunity for bold steps to accelerate global environmental action**, such as agreements for a moratorium on geo-engineering and sea-bed mining, and a short-term timeline for a full transition to agro-ecology and enacting the human right to a healthy environment.

Beat plastic pollution now

Governments, with input from all levels of society, must **maintain the momentum towards UNEA 5.2 to adopt a mandate to start negotiations for a legally binding instrument to tackle plastic pollution** that places the rights of people and Nature at its core, and support the draft resolution proposed by Peru and Rwanda. In this endeavour, it is necessary to adopt a **life cycle approach**, which must cover the phase-out and reduction of plastic up-stream and middle-stream and the remediation of polluted sites, address the health and climate impacts of plastic pollution, and secure full implementation and enforcement of the polluter pays principle. It is critical that the focus of the legally binding instrument is on **reduction and prevention, especially the elimination of the use of single-use plastics and plastic packaging**, and the promotion of reuse systems. Recycling alone will not solve the plastic crisis. It is important to take note of and **avoid false solutions** to these and other environmental problems often promoted by certain business stakeholders with vested interests such as bio-based or biodegradable plastics or chemical recycling. The negotiations need to include those communities most impacted by plastic pollution along its life cycle, including **communities affected by pollution generated upstream during extraction of fossil fuels and production, from the petrochemical industry, from landfills and incinerators, the informal waste sector, and those communities depending on marine resources**. The process to discuss a legally binding instrument should not be an excuse to postpone immediate action to tackle the plastic crisis.

Emerging issues

The planet is under threat of new and emerging environmental risks that need to be addressed swiftly and effectively. We are in a time where an unprecedented erosion of biological and cultural diversity stands in stark contrast with the rapid development of disrupting technologies, from data-driven technologies to biotechnologies and Earth systems manipulations. Examples include geoengineering and gene drive organisms. We, therefore, call on you to ensure that UNEA5 is used as the global process to identify, recognise and prepare for emerging threats and to address

environmental challenges that are not currently regulated through global governance. These issues include but are not limited to:

- the **sustainable, equitable and human-rights compliant governance of our natural resources and raw materials** including a strengthening of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the right to say no, giving the International Resource Panel (IRP) the mandate to guide this.
- the threats posed to some of the **last almost untouched parts of our planet** through deep-sea mining, oil and gas exploitation and transport, and other harmful techniques to exploit or pollute our oceans' resources.
- the need for **soil protection** to reduce soil depletion and pollution by highly hazardous substances from industrial and agricultural sources that will make food production no longer feasible overall. Avoiding soil degradation is crucial to ensure food security. Recognising that the soil is alive with microbes, roots, and mycorrhizal fungi whose complex soil structures can be undermined by synthetic fertilisers that damage the nitrogen-fixing, carbon sequestration, and water retention services. Therefore, sustainable land management practises are measures for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- the role of **unsustainable livestock farming** in triggering land and ecosystem degradation, including through nitrogen disposition, zoonotic diseases pandemics, inhumane treatment of animals and climate change, and the need to redirect perverse incentives and investments to more sustainable food systems and diets
- to develop the capacity for technology horizon scanning, technology assessment and monitoring and to make sure to put **technical cooperation** in the context of **precaution, participation, free, prior informed consent, liability and redress**, and the rights-based approach.

Finally, we call upon all member states to recognise that **no environmental challenge can be addressed without full respect for the rights of, and collaboration with, rights holders on the ground**, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and older persons, peasants, workers and youth and civil society in general, and the rights of the future generations. It is in the interest of all that the work and initiatives of rightsholder groups be financially and politically supported to enable us all to jointly contribute to stronger global environmental policies, without fear of reprisals, to solve the critical environmental challenges of our time.

Core messages from CSOs in the EU (+EFTA, UK)

- The European countries should recognise their important **contribution and their responsibility** to environmental degradation and pollution (including waste exports). In view of this situation, Europe should **lead by example**, and this should be reflected in the resolutions supported and in full support for a legally binding UN treaty on **corporate accountability** and other due diligence legislation. Such legislation should also cover the financial sector and promote sustainable banking practices.
- It is essential to establish strong environmental **governance frameworks** that recognise **rights** to a healthy environment, which is grounded on meaningful participation of the public and stakeholders, and on the protection of environmental defenders. Putting legally binding regulations for member states is crucial. Enforcement on a national level should be guaranteed. This will also avoid interference from corporate power interests leading a country or a region to fail in addressing perverse incentives or flawed policies and regulations in general. Stakeholders are worried about the possible **corporate capture** of the European countries' positions in the negotiations on the resolutions, including on the **science-policy interface** and the proposal for an intergovernmental panel on chemicals and waste. The UNEA Science-Policy Forum should be maintained as such, and not turn into a Science-Policy-*Business* Forum.
- The stakeholders and rights holders insist on the links between the **social/economic crisis** and the triple environmental crisis. This should be dealt with in conflict management/analysis, and linked environmental impact of armed conflicts, and on policies that deal with the climate-linked environmental crises that could lead to social and political tensions and conflicts. The EU, EFTA countries and the UK should also pay more attention to dealing with the social impact as an effective way to deal with the environmental impact. The concept of **Just Transition** (including social dialogue, protection of labour rights, gender justice and human rights) is an important facilitator for this.
- Highlight the sufficiency and the **limits to growth and planetary boundaries**. A too narrow focus on the "circular economy" should be avoided. The green transition risks being a catalyst for mining and increased natural resource exploitation and environmental destruction, not only in the Global South but in Europe (e.g., Lithium in Western Balkans). This transition should be achieved through **stronger monitoring systems**: reporting progress on the implementation on national levels on a yearly basis on the environmental dimension of the SDGs during the week of the World Environment Day is recommended. That would support the HLPF process.

Core messages from CSOs in Eastern Europe

- The **environmental agenda is not a priority in our countries** due to the current regional situation, which is characterised by armed conflicts, the difficult political situation, the persecution of environmental activists and the closure of non-governmental organisations, creating problems for their functioning in a number of countries, economic problems, and the complicated situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing processes make the green agenda even less significant both on the state and public levels and our countries are **not on the right track to achieve significant environmental progress**. An estimated 90% or more of recovery investments currently go to environmentally unsustainable activities.
- To move to a green path of development, the provision of funding should be based on the **promotion of green, sustainable and eco-systems-based solutions**. It is unacceptable to finance projects that increase the damage to the environment, human health and wellbeing.
- Urgent actions are needed to **address toxic chemicals and waste**. Our countries must single use plastic (such as bags) and highly hazardous pesticides, improve the management of chemicals and waste, including endocrine disrupting chemicals and e-waste, stop the illegal trade in chemicals and waste, and ensure full disclosure of toxic chemicals in consumer products along the supply chain. All countries should urgently accede to the Ban Amendment under the Basel Convention, ensure compliance with the amendments to the Basel Convention on plastics and support the extension of the current SAICM until a new instrument for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 is adopted.
- We support the development and adoption of a **new legally binding global agreement on plastics** (as outlined above).
- To prepare for UNEA5.2 and effectively implement its decisions, we believe it is necessary to intensify **national dialogues** with the participation of governments, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders.

Core messages from CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey

The NGOs representing civil society from the Western Balkans and Turkey call for:

- Action for **food sovereignty** for a growing population based on biodiversity friendly solutions. The region's **natural assets need to be sustained** and generate alternative economic opportunities such as improving agro-ecological technologies, new markets for sustainable products, reusing farm waste (instead of burning) and supporting sustainable tourism.
- Action to align **development plans with EU Environmental Legislation and international agreements**. Natural resource exploitation, especially those with negative impact on nature, environment and human health, such as extraction and mining development in the region of Western Balkans and Turkey need to strictly apply human rights, free and prior informed consent of local communities and be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. We need clearer action for the **enforcement of environmental regulations**, especially regarding sustainable management, financing and monitoring of protected areas, including monitoring of species and habitats.
- Action for **public participation in all decision-making process** levels. Support for active civil society engagement and policy advocacy as well as widespread environmental education are necessary in the development of democratic and participatory societies.
- Action to recognize and address the **transboundary problems existing in the region which regard water contamination and air pollution, waste and chemical management**. Development of a regional network to advance scientific and technical cooperation for governance of shared water, land, and ecosystem services is needed.
- Action to **ban single use plastics** in line with EU regulations.

Core messages from CSOs in the Caucasus

The NGOs representing the Caucasus call for:

- Actions to further promote reforms, including harmonisation with best international practices in the existing **chemical legislation** in the Caucasus countries. NGOs bring forward proposals which are a step forward towards reforming the chemicals and waste management system in the Caucasus. By committing to meeting the requirements and implementing safe chemical alternatives and processes, governments and corporations of the Caucasus region will pave the way for healthy economies and healthy societies in the EECCA region and globally.
- Take a first step in this direction by reforming policies in the area of chemicals and waste. This change will accelerate implementation of Agenda 2030 and multilateral agreements. The Caucasus countries need to protect people and, first, the most vulnerable groups of the population, namely, children, women, the elderly, the disabled, workers including farmers and other marginalised groups. As a priority, action must be taken to **phase out the highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) and toxic chemicals in products**, develop safer

- alternatives, protect high-risk communities, and ensure that those responsible for creating and using hazardous chemicals are fully financially responsible for remediating health damage.
- Support the call for global action to curb plastic pollution now, through coordinating and reinforcing existing agreements, and through a new global agreement on plastic pollution throughout its lifecycle. **Plastic pollution in the Caucasus** has become pervasive in agricultural soils, posing a threat to food security, people's health, and the environment. This is particularly important in the context of the pandemic which has resulted in a further acceleration of plastic pollution, damaging the unique ecosystems of the Caucasus region, and posing greater threats to the ecosystems and food systems already under pressure due to accumulation of toxic chemicals such as HHP in agriculture.
 - Acknowledge the relevance of wildlife use for local populations but take urgent measures to reduce the risk of zoonotic spill overs and future pandemics using regulated, managed, and monitored nature resources to ensure that they are safe, sustainable, and legal. Loss of biodiversity, wood waste issue- South Caucasus is one of the twenty global biodiversity hotspots. To reduce the risk of COVID 19 and other zoonotic spill overs and future pandemics measures are required for restoration of healthy and resilient ecosystems.

Core messages from CSOs in Central Asia

- **Central Asia's water resources, along with mountain, forest and pasture ecosystems, continue to deteriorate** due to economic reasoning prevailing over the environmental one, flawed natural resources management, lack of inclusion and transparency, and insufficient regional interaction.
- Call on the governments of the Central Asian countries to heed the **voice of science**, recognise the need and urgency for fundamental and **systematic change**, foster comprehensive regional cooperation and abandon the "business-as-usual" model.
- Change to a **circular economy, sustainable and climate adaptive agriculture and green energy** to reduce the damage caused by the current unsustainable economic system.
- Pursue **conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems**, recognising their primary role in maintaining climatic stability and wellbeing of the region's population. Develop policies and legislation considering the transboundary nature of environmental issues and using water basin, ecosystem-based and human rights-based approaches to address them.
- Adopt an **inclusive approach and bottom-up principle to engage citizens and civil society** in developing related policies and implementing respective strategies and programs at all levels. The entire political and legislative process must be gender-sensitive and based on democracy and the principle of intergenerational equity.
- Expand and strengthen **regional dialogue and cooperation** in the field of combatting the climate crisis and environmental protection through joint agreements, programs and projects that will further develop partnerships and good neighbourly relations between the countries.

IV. Regional report from Asia and the Pacific

Statement from Asia Pacific Peoples Forum/MGS Forum for the 4th Asia Pacific Forum of Ministers & High Officials, Oct 2021 and UNEA 5.2

Rebuilding People's Power, Democracy and Multilateralism for Protecting Rights, Strengthening Nature Action, Sustainable Recovery from Covid 19 Pandemic and Achieving the SDGs

We, more than 182 peoples' movements, civil society organizations, and community based grassroots organizations, participated in a series of Asia Pacific Regional Consultations (held on 13th & 14th September) culminating in Asia Pacific Peoples (Major Groups & Stakeholders Forum) on 4th October 2021.

We underline that the Asia Pacific region has the largest share of poor and malnourished people, women and children and six out of ten largest GHG emitting countries. Despite the fact that the region is the most vulnerable region to natural disasters in the world with very high economic, social and environmental costs, most of the countries in the region and majority of the population is highly dependent on nature. The region was unlikely to achieve SDGs by 2030 even before the pandemic. On its current trajectory it may achieve less than 10% of the SDG Targets. The pandemic threatens this further. The region is regressing on critical goals like SDG13 and SDG14

The Covid 19 pandemic further exposed the structural fragilities of the economy and vulnerabilities of the society and was particularly hard to the poorest communities. The pandemic has added hundreds of millions of more people to extreme poverty and hunger. Despite significant investments in financial stimulus, recovery seems challenging. Recurrence of the Covid 19 spikes and repeated lockdowns, poor vaccination roll out, large part of the spending going to fossil fuel and industry support, as well ignoring systemic and structural barriers continue to impede recovery.

The regional priorities are very clear. Climate crisis and frequent disasters, rapid biodiversity loss, increasing poverty, inequality and hunger, increasing gender inequalities and burden of unpaid care work on women, loss of jobs and livelihoods and near non-existent social security, rapid desertification and degradation of marine ecosystems and plastics pollution as well as the ambient air pollution are the major environmental issues inextricably linked to development trajectory in the region requiring serious, genuine and adequate attention commensurate to the crises.

Strengthened political will and regional cooperation can help to address some of these issues in the region. However, complete transformation of economies and society and reversal of organized slaughter of the entire ecosystem cannot be achieved without the best multilateral cooperation and global response.

Our specific recommendations and demands from 4th Asia Pacific Ministers Forum and UNEA 5.2 are as below;

a) Nature for Climate (and biodiversity);

1. Enhancing resilience of communities through increased adaptation and loss and damage support and investing in nature is the top most priority.
2. The countries of the region come out of the coal dependence, halt support to the fossil fuel subsidies (as they hardly reach the poorest), increase support to renewable energy. They must resist all false solutions and corporate led profit oriented untested and doomed to fail solutions like geo-engineering solutions, biofuels and net zero and must try to achieve emission reduction in near term so as to be able prevent the worst impacts of climate crisis.
3. The major economies in the region as well as all high income countries need to substantially improve their NDCs so as to be able to prevent breaching of 1.5 degrees target of the Paris agreement.

b) Nature for food;

1. We recognise the fundamental role of agriculture and small farmers and food producers in attaining rural development and ensuring overall economic growth, and also corporate capture of food and agriculture. We reiterate that agroecological approaches and food sovereignty embedded with the right to food is the only pathway to sustainable, just and equitable food systems. All governments in the regions must make urgent efforts to achieve this transformation and reverse rather than large-scale, capital and chemical intensive industrial monocultures.

2. In this context, it is critical that small and landless farmers and farm workers, and indigenous peoples and local communities have access to and control of land and other natural resources. We also call upon the governments to recognise the rights, knowledge, innovation and wisdom of indigenous peoples, small farmers and women providing sustainable solutions for environment, climate change, biodiversity and food.

c) Nature for jobs

1. We call upon the governments in the region to take immediate steps to restore decent jobs, reduce informality and substantially enhance social protections. They must ensure just and equitable transition, enhanced work force participation of women, respect labour laws and trade unions and end discrimination against migrant workers.
2. In the light of huge dependence on nature for livelihoods, the governments must protect livelihoods based on nature and climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and fisheries along with job creation. Governments must ensure production systems that put the people and environmental sustainability at the centre of development rather than extractive systems which increase exploitation of nature along with vulnerabilities of the poor and the workers.

d) Nature for Health

1. Governments in the region should take immediate steps to restore public health infrastructure by reversing neo-liberal policies leading to erosion of public investment in health. They also must be prepared to prevent predicted increase in maternal and child mortality by all measures including safe and nutritious food, water and sanitation and health facilities. Elderly people, children as well as people with disabilities have faced significant challenges during the pandemic which must be addressed before any delay.
2. Vaccine rollout in the region also manifested glaring lack of global solidarity and hoarding, and profiteering taking over public good. Lack of vaccines and poor rates of vaccinations mean that poor countries and communities may take years to be fully vaccinated. This inequality needs to be addressed immediately and actions are needed on the part of the high income countries beyond G20 commitments to make vaccines a global public good, commit more vaccines reserved by them and remove all intellectual property and trade barriers and make equitable access to vaccines to all by taking other measures necessary.

e) Structural Barriers and systemic Issues:

Environment and climate cycle cannot be restored without taking into account and addressing systemic issues upfront. The situation in the region is worsened by war and conflict, authoritarian regimes, corruption, persistent human rights violations, shrinking civic space, use of patriarchy as political tool, migration, climate refugees and forced displacement, and corporate capture and lack of regional cooperation. Unequal trade opportunities, Trade and non barriers, illicit financial flow, trade and investment agreement with ISDS provision undermining sovereignty of countries with, and huge sovereign debt leave no fiscal space to developing and poor countries in the region to invest in public services, eradicate poverty and hunger, provide appropriate health and other basic services including education, need to be addressed through appropriate global and multilateral responses immediately. An attempt to improve the environment without overcoming these structural barriers would be an exercise in futility.

f) UNEP @50

UNEP's 50th anniversary is an historic moment to re-imagine a global environmental authority within the UN System that responds to the unprecedented challenges of our times while defending people's interest and protecting the integrity of the planet. We need a UNEP that has the political will and teeth to enforce MEAs, enable and empower countries to adopt and enforce environmental regulations that serve the interest of people over business interests. We need a UNEP that promotes evidence to support policy decisions from diverse sources of knowledge that respect peoples' lived experiences and knowledge systems. The world needs a UNEP that provides sound horizon scanning and early warning on environmental challenges to countries and communities while building their capacities to evaluate the potential impacts of new and emerging technologies. We need a bold, radical and stronger UNEP that is not influenced by pressures and influences of corporate players, but will strongly adhere to and defend inclusive multilateralism that guarantees space for the voiceless and marginalized.

g) Recommendations to UNEA 5.2;

1. Strengthening Nature action for achieving the SDGs is a welcome idea. Enhancing agroecology, strengthening natural ecosystems, rewilding, in food systems and protecting rights of small farmers and food producers should be central in pathway to not only food systems transformation but also addressing the crises in climate, food and jobs, and we would welcome UNEA to support this. However, we would also like to have a clearer definition and principles of nature action so that it is not open to interpretation for its vested interests.
2. Strong and binding commitments are required to end marine plastic pollution and marine litter by 2030
3. UNEA must end the ecocide and genocide by bringing an internationally binding agreement to end production, use, export and import of highly hazardous pesticides by 2030
4. Air pollution is a global emergency but a bigger regional emergency needs quick and decisive action by UNEA.
5. We also ask UNEA to ask UNEP to prepare a report on how nature action and science policy coherence across all UN agencies and processes can be ensured and present it in the UNEA 6.

V. Regional report from Latin America and the Caribbean

Recopilación de Declaraciones y Recomendaciones de los Grupos Principales y Partes Interesadas de América Latina y el Caribe

La Quinta Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (UNEA-5) se centra en el tema "Fortalecer la acción por la naturaleza para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible". La segunda parte de UNEA5 (UNEA-5.2) se celebrará en Nairobi, Kenia, del 28 de febrero al 2 de marzo de 2022, y representa una oportunidad para que los Estados Miembros compartan las mejores prácticas en materia de sostenibilidad. Creará un impulso para que los gobiernos se reconstruyan después de la pandemia COVID-19 a través de planes de recuperación verdes y sostenibles.

Reconociendo el papel crucial de la sociedad civil, los Estados miembros apoyaron que el PNUMA organizará el Foro Mundial de Grupos Principales y Partes Interesadas (GMGSF por sus siglas en inglés), junto con UNEA. El GMGSF tiene como objetivo informar a los grupos principales acreditados y no acreditados y a las partes interesadas sobre las políticas actuales y futuras del PNUMA, y proporcionar una plataforma donde los representantes de los Grupos Principales puedan intercambiar puntos de vista y desarrollar un terreno común destinado a contribuir a los diálogos políticos entre múltiples partes interesadas durante el evento.

El Foro es precedido por **Reuniones Consultivas Regionales** preparatorias entre la sociedad civil de las respectivas regiones para garantizar que las perspectivas regionales sobre todos los mandatos del PNUMA y los temas de la UNEA, incluidos los desafíos regionales específicos, se reflejen en el camino hacia la Asamblea del Medio Ambiente.

En el presente informe se presentan los resultados de las Reuniones Consultivas Regionales de los grupos principales y las partes interesadas de América Latina y el Caribe. Las oficinas regionales del PNUMA y los facilitadores regionales organizaron estas reuniones virtuales llevadas a cabo del 18 al 19 de octubre de 2021. En concordancia con los objetivos específicos de la reunión, se presentan a continuación las principales declaraciones y recomendaciones recibidas, divididas por secciones temáticas:

Temas principales en la agenda de la región

Los grupos principales y partes interesadas de la región, nos reunimos virtualmente para discutir sobre cuáles son los principales desafíos y temas prioritarios en la acción ambiental; acordamos los siguientes mensajes clave:

a) Cambio Climático:

Reconocemos, que el cambio climático es una amenaza clara para América Latina y el Caribe, considerando sus costos económicos, sociales y políticos. Las poblaciones vulnerables de la región mantienen una alta dependencia económica de la agricultura y los recursos naturales, la baja capacidad adaptativa de grandes segmentos de la población, y la ubicación geográfica de algunos países reafirman la urgencia de aplicar medidas de Adaptación, para enfrentar los cambios ambientales relacionados no solo con el cambio del clima y los eventos climáticos extremos, sino también con el cambio en el uso del suelo y las propiedades de los recursos naturales (suelo, agua, biodiversidad). Las necesidades de adaptación abarcan un rango amplio de opciones que contemplan las necesidades físicas y ambientales, sociales, institucionales, de información y capacitación de recursos humanos, y la inclusión del sector privado en el proceso.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se priorice la asignación de recursos que permitan la adaptación al cambio climático y aminorar los riesgos, será necesario fortalecer y crear alianzas estratégicas para la construcción de proyectos resilientes y promover la construcción de infraestructura sostenible.
2. Que se asuman políticas institucionales impulsando la implementación del ODS13, Acción por el Clima.
3. Que se refuerce la aplicación de Soluciones Basadas en la Naturaleza para combatir los efectos del cambio climático. Reconociendo estas como acción eficaz para restaurar ecosistemas y los servicios que estos proveen, y para responder a diversos desafíos de la sociedad como el cambio climático, la seguridad alimentaria o el riesgo de desastres naturales. Hacemos especial énfasis en la necesidad de restaurar y preservar los ecosistemas marinos y costeros, como acción fundamental para la adaptación al cambio climático. Considerando que la conservación de estos ecosistemas es esencial, ya que además de su importancia ecológica y socioeconómica para la región, actúan como barreras naturales de contención ante desastres como tormentas tropicales y huracanes.
4. Que se aumente el financiamiento climático internacional destinado a la región, prestando especial atención en la transparencia de la financiación internacional en la lucha contra el cambio climático y la clara definición de métodos de implementación. A medida que aumenten los flujos internacionales de financiamiento climático, la transparencia será una herramienta clave para generar confianza entre los socios y ayudara a mejorar la eficacia de la financiación climática.

b) Gobernanza Ambiental:

Reconocemos, que la región requiere fortalecer las medidas de protección para las/los defensores ambientales y mejorar la implementación y el compromiso con el Acuerdo de Escazú. Urge que los Estados se unan para fortalecer la gobernanza ambiental, que beneficie la protección de la Amazonía y otros bosques primarios en la región. Vivimos en una región con sistemas jurídicos débiles, será necesario monitorear permanentemente el cumplimiento de las normativas ya adoptadas contra los crímenes ambientales, mejorar los procesos de toma de decisiones, el acceso a la información, establecer marcos normativos adecuados que faciliten procesos de resolución de conflictos y mejoren el acceso a la justicia ambiental y sus mecanismos de aplicación.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se asegure el cumplimiento y respeto de las leyes y reglamentos vigentes en materia de derecho ambiental en pro del cuidado y protección de las áreas naturales protegidas en la región, sus ecosistemas y biodiversidad. Que se implementen programas eficientes y efectivos para la protección de los ecosistemas naturales, con una gestión inclusiva, transparente y abierta.
2. Que se garanticen espacios seguros para el ejercicio y exigencia de derechos ambientales y civiles. Que se desarrollen y fortalezcan los procesos y espacios para la participación inclusiva de las personas en la toma de decisiones sobre el territorio.
3. Que se limite el extractivismo y la tala ilegal, que va ligada también a incendios forestales provocados.
4. Que se implementen operativos y sistemas de control dentro de las instituciones del Estado, supervisados por la sociedad civil, para monitorear los actos de corrupción.
5. Que se impulse la plena inclusión de los pueblos indígenas en estos procesos y espacios de participación en la región ya que su rol es protagónico en la toma de decisiones. Es necesario garantizar sus derechos colectivos y asegurar que no se queden atrás en el desarrollo sostenible. Los procesos de criminalización de demandas territoriales de los pueblos indígenas son un fenómeno generalizado en la región al igual que los recurrentes ataques a defensores y defensoras ambientales.
6. Que se promueva el cumplimiento de la legislación y la política ambiental a través de la cooperación intersectorial, en los distintos niveles de gobierno y en alianza con otros actores.
7. Que se ponga fin a la impunidad frente al daño ambiental grave conocido como Ecocidio, por esto apoyamos la propuesta de incorporar el Ecocidio como un crimen en el *Estatuto de Roma* sobre el que debe tener jurisdicción la *Corte Penal Internacional*, entendiendo el Ecocidio como el daño ambiental grave causado con intencionalidad por acciones u omisiones, aun teniendo conocimiento del daño ambiental grave que se causaría y contando con los medios para prevenir el daño, que tenga perdurabilidad en el tiempo, cuya magnitud sea de gran alcance en cuanto al número de víctimas o su alcance geográfico y que altere el funcionamiento normal de los ecosistemas.
8. Que se asignen recursos para la implementación del *Acuerdo de Escazú* y se desarrollen procesos inclusivos para la construcción de la paz ambiental en la región, además de monitorear permanentemente el cumplimiento de las normativas ya adoptadas, mediante comités locales. Para mejorar la transparencia, se recomienda establecer un sistema de indicadores y monitoreo periódico, reconociendo la transparencia sea un elemento clave para la Gobernanza Ambiental.

c) Educación Ambiental

Reconocemos, que es necesario fortalecer la educación ambiental, con el fin de incrementar la concienciación y el conocimiento de los ciudadanos sobre las principales temáticas o problemas ambientales, brindando así las herramientas necesarias para tomar decisiones de manera informada y actuar de manera responsable, contribuyendo al bienestar y el desarrollo sostenible de la región en el corto y largo plazo.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se promueva la creación de entidades formuladoras de opinión en la región tales como los llamados “*think tanks*” o institutos de investigación para generar influencia en ciertos temas ambientales, junto a otros grupos de interés. La utilización de herramientas comunicacionales como las redes sociales para dar visibilidad a temas que generen información relevante para la sociedad civil y los grupos de interés.
2. Que se implemente en las escuelas, universidades y empresas, bases de datos o repositorios para consultar información ambiental, lo cual ayuda a democratizar el acceso a los datos. Estas herramientas ayudan a proporcionar a los responsables de la toma de decisiones datos de calidad de referencia, para situar la naturaleza en el centro del desarrollo sostenible, aprovechando así los datos científicos para la comprensión, el establecimiento de prioridades y la implementación de políticas.
3. Que se fortalezcan las alianzas con las instituciones de educación superior para vincular la toma de decisiones con procesos de investigación en ciencias y tecnología que aporten de manera directa a las problemáticas ambientales, sean aplicables, transferibles, y permitan dar soluciones a problemas socio ambientales. La investigación aplicada representa una herramienta muy útil para resolver problemas concretos y prácticos, por ejemplo, puede ser un medio para abordar problemas ambientales como la contaminación química, la

- contaminación por micro plásticos, la reutilización de materiales y el desarrollo de tecnologías amigables con el medio ambiente.
4. Que se incorpore la educación ambiental desde la educación básica, incluyendo programas educativos sobre la conservación de la biodiversidad, conocimientos acerca de los recursos naturales, así como los servicios ecosistémicos que nos proporcionan.
 5. Que se proporcionen capacitaciones para la sociedad civil en temas específicos de la gobernanza global, derecho internacional (tratados, acuerdos, convenciones, etc.) y el medio ambiente.
 6. Que se promueva la creación de un “Hub” o centro regional dedicado a generar nuevas e innovadoras ideas que aporten soluciones a los problemas ambientales de la región.

d) Contaminación por plásticos:

Reconocemos, la urgente necesidad de trabajar hacia una posición común por parte de los países de la región, para ello será necesario negociar y adoptar acuerdos/tratados que cubran el ciclo de vida de plásticos, con el fin de regular y/o prohibir el consumo de productos plásticos de un solo uso. Urge investigar sobre los efectos de micro plásticos en la cadena alimentaria, tomar acciones para reducir esta contaminación e iniciar la transición hacia una economía circular.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se tome acción inmediata contra el plástico desechable, o de un solo uso, reducir su consumo y buscar productos alternativos al plástico para frenar la contaminación por este material.
2. Que se promuevan esfuerzos de investigación científica para determinar el alcance de la contaminación por micro plásticos, el tema es preocupante para la región, la acumulación y altas concentraciones de estos residuos contribuyen al deterioro de la calidad ambiental marina y representan una amenaza para la biodiversidad y la seguridad alimentaria.
3. Que se discutan y definan los componentes principales que deberán incluirse en un futuro acuerdo internacional vinculante sobre contaminación por plásticos, que articule acciones nacionales y regionales, armonice las estrategias de monitoreo y permita la cooperación técnica y financiera desde los Estados desarrollados hacia los países más vulnerables en la región, con menos infraestructura y menos capacidad de gestión. Promover la negociación de un acuerdo regional o incluso global para abordar el tema y que permita un trabajo coordinado de monitoreo, concientización, educación y toma de decisiones, acciones en torno a los desafíos derivados.
4. Que se garantice que las industrias generadoras de residuos plásticos realicen una compensación directa a los ecosistemas afectados por la disposición de estos y que incluyan en sus programas de responsabilidad social empresarial, jornadas de sensibilización ambiental.
5. Que se establezcan políticas claras sobre el manejo de plásticos de un solo uso y de uso frecuente, teniendo en cuenta la correcta disposición y oportunidades de recuperación de estos materiales.
6. Que se establezca un sistema de indicadores y monitoreo periódico para la región, para ello será necesario desarrollar y consensuar indicadores claros y cuantificables que respondan a nuestras metas de sostenibilidad y conservación, que nos ayuden a establecer el estrecho vínculo que existe entre la agenda ambiental y el desarrollo sostenible.

e) Transición Energética:

Reconocemos, que la región se encuentra actualmente desarrollando planes para la reactivación económica post-pandemia, estos planes representan una oportunidad única para la inclusión de medidas que, al mismo tiempo que reactiven la economía, también apoyen la transición energética de los países de la región. La transición hacia energías renovables es un poderoso motor para el crecimiento, para combatir la pobreza, crear empleos y contribuir a la acción climática.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se realice una transición energética hacia las energías renovables de manera sostenible.
2. Que se garantice una transición justa e inclusiva, para mejorar el acceso a electricidad a millones de latinoamericanos que aún no cuentan con este servicio básico.

f) Pérdida de Biodiversidad/ Ecocidio

Reconocemos, a la pérdida de biodiversidad y la destrucción ambiental como uno de los mayores desafíos que enfrentamos. Existe una gran preocupación por el nivel de daño masivo o destrucción ambiental en la región, particularmente señalamos el daño causado por los modelos extractivistas tradicionales y como estos no son los más adecuados para la región en términos de sostenibilidad.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se transforme la estructura productiva, para lograr un cambio estructural con igualdad y sostenibilidad que supere la dependencia extractivista o buscar alternativas para lograr una transformación social y ecológica, promover e implementar medidas alternativas al extractivismo.
2. Que se desarrollen instituciones y proyectos apoyados en la *Agenda de Acción de Addis Abeba* y otros instrumentos.

3. Que, para investigar y judicializar el *Ecocidio* y los crímenes contra el medio ambiente, se incluya el concepto de *Ecocidio* en el *Artículo 5 del Estatuto de Roma* como crimen internacional. Será necesario incentivar a expertos en medio ambiente y derecho penal internacional a que propongan una definición jurídica del *ecocidio* para que pueda ser considerado claramente como crimen internacional y ocupe un lugar justo, junto con el genocidio, los crímenes contra la humanidad, los crímenes de guerra entre otros afines.

g) Finanzas sostenibles:

Reconocemos, que es necesario promover la incorporación de prácticas sostenibles por parte de las instituciones financieras, para dirigir a la región hacia una recuperación verde y asegurar la transición hacia un futuro sostenible, inclusivo y con bajas emisiones de carbono, con modelos financieros que consideren los impactos ambientales generados por la actividad económica.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se implementen políticas nacionales de finanzas sostenibles y empezar a tomar en cuenta los factores sociales y medioambientales en las decisiones de inversión a largo plazo. Lograr la implementación de finanzas sostenibles y la promoción de la inversión responsable. El sector financiero juega un papel fundamental para el desarrollo y crecimiento de la región y es un actor clave para ayudar a mitigar los impactos del cambio climático y la degradación ambiental.

h) Manejo de Residuos

Reconocemos, que la mala gestión de residuos en la región es un desafío ambiental importante, es urgente acabar con prácticas peligrosas para el medio ambiente y la salud humana relacionadas al mal manejo de desechos. La disposición final de desechos de manera no controlada o su falta o incorrecta recolección causa altos niveles de contaminación en los suelos, el agua y el aire afectando la calidad de vida de las personas y al medio ambiente. La poca capacidad de reciclaje es otro de los retos que afronta la región.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se implementen acciones para lograr una gestión eficiente, que permita transitar hacia un modelo de economía circular, clave para un desarrollo sostenible.
2. Que se considere la gestión de los residuos de aparatos eléctricos y electrónicos, y la problemática asociada a su incorrecta disposición final.

i) Contaminación Química

Reconocemos, que es urgente iniciar la transición hacia productos químicos que sean más seguros para la salud humana y el medio ambiente, necesitamos identificar y reducir los riesgos para la salud ambiental causados por el uso de productos químicos en distintas actividades económicas.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se apoye a los países de la región en el desarrollo de protocolos para la eliminación de residuos tóxicos y se promueva el diálogo entre los mecanismos transfronterizos para hacer cumplir las normas internacionales que regulan la gestión de los residuos tóxicos.
2. Que se fortalezca la implementación de instrumentos como el *Convenio de Minamata* sobre el Mercurio, la *Convención de Basilea sobre el control de los movimientos transfronterizos de los desechos peligrosos y su eliminación* y otros tratados internacionales acordados para proteger la salud humana y el medio ambiente.
3. Que se controle/regule el uso de plaguicidas de alto peligro los cuales causan efectos adversos en la salud humana y el medio ambiente.
4. Que se construyan mejores estrategias para la gestión de productos químicos en la región y se aborden los daños significativos a la salud y el medio ambiente causados por la exposición a estos.
5. Que la región adopte nuevos compromisos políticos para revisar y regular la forma en que se producen y utilizan los productos químicos con el fin de reducir dichos daños.
6. Que se desarrollen estrategias de visibilidad para esta problemática en particular y se informe al público.

j) Producción sostenible de alimentos:

Reconocemos, que el deterioro del suelo, el cambio climático y la disponibilidad de agua y energía son importantes retos para la región, cuya población necesitara aumentar la producción agrícola, hacerlo de manera que reduzca la desigualdad, revertir y prevenir la degradación de los recursos. La ciencia y la tecnología pueden jugar un papel vital para ayudarnos a enfrentar estos retos, por ejemplo, desarrollando innovaciones que estén al alcance de los pequeños agricultores y puedan ser usadas por aquellos con recursos limitados. La degradación del suelo, o la pérdida de su capacidad productiva y la gestión del agua son problemas cruciales que enfrenta la región. La mayor demanda de alimentos y la escasez de recursos presionarían a los sistemas agrícolas.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se discutan y definan estrategias orientadas a aumentar la productividad dentro de los límites ambientales, apoyando a los productores a incrementar de forma sostenible su producción de alimentos y facilitar la disponibilidad y el acceso a estos alimentos a todas las personas.
2. Que se promueva la integración y cooperación en la región en este importante tema a nivel global, dando prioridad a garantizar la alimentación de los pueblos, pero sin poner en riesgo al medio ambiente.
3. Que se impulsen espacios de negociación y diálogo basados en ciencia, economía y desarrollo.
4. Que se impulse la creación de incentivos para la producción de consumo local, y se promuevan programas de agricultura vertical y otras modalidades en donde se favorezca la agricultura de una forma amigable con el planeta.
5. Que las autoridades competentes ejerzan la defensa integral de nuestras costas y sus recursos de las incursiones de embarcaciones de origen local o extranjero que realizan pesca de arrastre y demás actividades pesqueras prohibidas.

k) Inclusión de la Juventud

Reconocemos, que es esencial asegurar la equidad intergeneracional en la acción ambiental e incentivar la participación de los jóvenes, y la creación de espacios donde estos se involucren, capaciten, donde los niños y jóvenes sean escuchados. Los jóvenes quieren estar en la primera línea de los procesos de cuidado ambiental.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos:

1. Que se promueva la creación de un Foro Global de Juventudes para mantener a los jóvenes informados e inmersos en todos los procesos.
2. Que se otorguen espacios para los jóvenes en los escenarios principales de toma de decisiones.
3. Que los espacios de participación sean llamativos para que cada vez sean más los jóvenes que quieran involucrarse.
4. Que se otorguen fondos para apoyar proyectos o programas impulsados por la juventud, que aporten al desarrollo sostenible, la biodiversidad y/o frenar el cambio climático.
5. Que se desincentive el “adulto-centrismo”, y se fomente una participación más inclusiva entre generaciones; motivando el empoderamiento de la juventud.
6. Que se diseñen e implementen políticas públicas bajo un enfoque precautorio, tomando en cuenta los efectos a largo plazo y sus posibles afectaciones a la siguiente generación, en particular en casos relacionados con megaproyectos y actividades biotecnológicas.
7. Que se impulse el establecimiento de espacios y mecanismos institucionalizados, pero culturalmente adecuados de participación para jóvenes, niñas y niños en todos los procesos vinculados a las políticas públicas sobre biodiversidad.
8. Que se refuerce el cumplimiento de leyes e instrumentos regulatorios para el sector privado, así como aplicar sanciones estrictas por su incumplimiento.

Por último, hacemos un llamamiento a todos los Estados de la región a aumentar su ambición y compromiso con la acción climática y la conservación ambiental, reconociendo que el medio ambiente es patrimonio de todos y que actualmente nos enfrentamos a una crisis ambiental. Durante demasiado tiempo, hemos estado explotando y destruyendo nuestros ecosistemas, afectando la calidad de vida de nuestros pueblos, es urgente que forjemos nuestro camino hacia un modelo de desarrollo más sostenible y equitativo.

English version:

Compilation of Statements and Recommendations of Major Groups and Stakeholders of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) focuses on the theme "Strengthening action by nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". The second part of UNEA5 (UNEA-5.2) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 28 February to 2 March 2022, and represents an opportunity for Member States to share best practices on sustainability. It will build momentum for governments to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic through green and sustainable recovery plans.

Recognizing the crucial role of civil society, Member States supported UNEP in the organization of the Global Forum of Major Groups and Stakeholders (GMGSF), together with UNEA. The GMGSF aims to inform accredited and non-accredited major groups and stakeholders about UNEP's current and future policies, and to provide a platform where representatives of Major Groups can exchange views and develop a common ground aimed at contributing to multi-stakeholder policy dialogues during the event.

The Forum is preceded by preparatory **Regional Consultative Meetings** among civil society from the respective regions to ensure that regional perspectives on all UNEP mandates and UNEA themes, including specific regional challenges, are reflected on the road to the Environment Assembly.

This report presents the results of the Regional Consultative Meetings of major groups and stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNEP regional offices and regional facilitators organized these virtual meetings, held from 18 to 19 October 2021. In line with the specific objectives of the meeting, the statements and recommendations received are presented below, divided into thematic sections:

Main issues on the region's agenda

Major groups and stakeholders from the region met virtually to discuss what are the main challenges and priority issues in environmental action; we agreed on the following key messages:

a) Climate Change:

We recognize that climate change is a clear threat to Latin America and the Caribbean, considering its economic, social and political costs. Vulnerable populations in the region maintain a high economic dependence on agriculture and natural resources, the low adaptive capacity of large segments of the population, and the geographical location of some countries. We stress the urgency of applying Adaptation measures, to face environmental changes related not only to climate change and extreme weather events, but also to the change in land use and the properties or characteristics of natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity). Adaptation needs to encompass a wide range of options that address physical, environmental, social, institutional, human resources information and training needs, and the inclusion of the private sector in the process.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. Prioritizing the allocation of resources that allow adaptation to climate change and reduce risks. We stress on the need to strengthen and create strategic alliances for the construction of resilient projects and promote the construction of sustainable infrastructure.
2. Assuming institutional policies that promote the implementation of SDG13, *Climate Action*.
3. Reinforcing the application of Nature-Based Solutions to combat the effects of climate change. Recognizing these as effective actions to restore ecosystems and the services they provide, and to respond to various societal challenges such as climate change, food security and reducing the risk of natural disasters. We stress on the need to restore and preserve marine and coastal ecosystems, as a fundamental action for adaptation to climate change. Considering that the conservation of these ecosystems is essential, since in addition to their ecological and socioeconomic importance for the region, they act as natural barriers of containment against disasters such as tropical storms and hurricanes.
4. Increasing international climate finance for the region, paying special attention to the transparency of international financing in the fight against climate change and the clear definition of implementation methods. As international climate finance flows increase, transparency will be a key tool to build trust among partners and help improve the effectiveness of climate finance.

b) Environmental Governance:

We recognize that the region needs to strengthen protection measures for environmental defenders and improve the implementation and commitment to the Escazú Agreement. It is urgent that States come together to strengthen environmental governance, which benefits the protection of the Amazon and other primary forests in the region. We live in a region with fragile legal systems, so that it will be necessary to permanently monitor compliance with the regulations already adopted against environmental crimes, improve decision-making processes and access to information, establish adequate regulatory frameworks that facilitate conflict resolution processes and improve access to environmental justice and its enforcement mechanisms.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. Ensuring compliance with the existing laws and regulations in the field of environmental law in favor of the care and protection of protected natural areas in the region, their ecosystems and biodiversity. We also stress on the need for efficient and effective programs to be implemented for the protection of natural ecosystems, with inclusive, transparent and open management.
2. That safe spaces are guaranteed for the exercise and demand of environmental and civil rights. To develop and strengthen the processes and spaces for the inclusive participation of people in decision-making about the territory.
3. That extractives and illegal logging be limited, which is also linked to man-made forest fires.
4. That monitoring and control systems be implemented within state institutions, supervised by civil society, to identify and report acts of corruption.
5. That states promote the full inclusion of indigenous peoples in processes and spaces of participation, since they should be provided with a leading role in the decision-making process. It is necessary to guarantee their collective rights and ensure that they are not left behind in sustainable development. The processes of

- criminalization of territorial claims of indigenous peoples are a widespread phenomenon in the region as are the recurrent attacks on indigenous environmental defenders.
6. That states promote and ensure compliance with environmental legislation and policy through intersectoral cooperation, at different levels of government and in partnership with other actors.
 7. That impunity be put to an end in the face of the serious environmental damage known as Ecocide, which is why we support the proposal to incorporate Ecocide as a crime in the *Rome Statute* over which the *International Criminal Court* should have jurisdiction. Ecocide is a serious environmental damage caused intentionally by actions or omissions, even if one is aware of the serious environmental damage that would be caused and have the means to prevent the damage, that it has durability over time, whose magnitude is far-reaching in terms of the number of people affected or its geographical scope that alters the normal functioning of ecosystems.
 8. That resources be allocated for the implementation of the *Escazú Agreement* and that inclusive processes be developed for the construction of environmental peace in the region, in addition to permanently monitoring compliance with the regulations already adopted, through local committees. To improve transparency, it is recommended to establish a system of indicators and periodic monitoring, recognizing transparency as a key element for environmental governance.

c) Environmental Education

We recognize that it is necessary to strengthen environmental education, in order to increase the awareness and knowledge of citizens on the main environmental issues or problems, thus providing the necessary tools to make informed decisions and act responsibly, contributing to the well-being and sustainable development of the region in the short and long term.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That the creation of opinion-formulating entities in the region such as the so-called "*think tanks*" or research institutes be promoted to generate influence on certain environmental issues, together with other interest groups. We also recommend the use of communication tools such as social media networks to give visibility to issues that generate relevant information for civil society and interest groups.
2. That databases or repositories to consult environmental information are implemented in schools, universities and companies, which helps democratize access to data. These tools help provide decision-makers with baseline data to place nature at the centre of sustainable development, thus leveraging scientific data for understanding the issues, setting priorities and implementing policies..
3. That alliances with higher education institutions be strengthened to link decision-making with research processes in science and technology that contribute directly to environmental problems, that are applicable and transferable, and that allow solutions to socio-environmental problems. Applied research represents a very useful tool to solve concrete and practical problems, for example, it can be a means to address environmental problems such as chemical pollution, microplastic pollution and the low reuse of materials. It can also be used to develop environmentally friendly technologies.
4. That environmental education be incorporated into basic education, including educational programs on the conservation of biodiversity, knowledge about natural resources, as well as the ecosystem services they provide us.
5. That training be provided for civil society on specific topics of global governance, international law (treaties, agreements, conventions, etc.) related to the environment.
6. The creation of a "Hub" or regional center dedicated to generating new and innovative ideas that provide solutions to the environmental problems of the region

d) Plastic pollution:

We recognize the urgent need to work towards a common position of the countries in the region in this matter, for this it will be necessary to negotiate and adopt agreements / treaties that cover the life cycle of plastics, in order to regulate and / or prohibit the consumption of single-use plastic products. There is an urgent need to research on the effects of microplastics in the food chain, take action to reduce pollution and initiate the transition to a circular economy.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That immediate action be taken against disposable or single-use plastic, in order to reduce its consumption and search for alternative products to plastic to reduce contamination by this material.
2. That scientific research efforts are promoted to determine the extent of microplastic pollution. The accumulation and high concentrations of these residues contribute to the deterioration of marine environmental diversity and represent a threat to biodiversity and food security.
3. That the main components to be included in a future legally binding international agreement on plastic pollution be discussed and defined. We stress on the need of an agreement that articulates national and regional actions, harmonizes monitoring strategies and allows technical and financial cooperation from developed States to the most vulnerable countries in the region, with less infrastructure and less management capacity. We recommend the negotiation of a regional or even global agreement to address the issue and that would allow coordinated

- work for monitoring, building awareness, promoting education and facilitating decision-making actions around the challenges derived.
4. Regulating industries that generate plastic waste in such a way that they must compensate directly towards the affected ecosystems, and that they include in their corporate responsibility programs, environmental awareness days. .
 5. That effective and transparent policies be established on the handling of single-use and frequently used plastics, envisaging the correct disposal and recycling opportunities of these materials.
 6. To establish a system of indicators and periodic monitoring for the region, it will be necessary to develop and agree on clear and quantifiable indicators that respond to our sustainability and conservation goals, and that help us establish the close link that exists between the environmental agenda and sustainable development.

e) Energy Transition:

We recognize that the region is currently developing plans for post-pandemic economic reactivation, these plans represent a unique opportunity for the inclusion of measures that, while reactivating the economy, also support the energy transition of the countries in the region. The transition to a economy based on renewable energy is a powerful engine for growth, to fight poverty, create jobs and contribute to climate action.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That an energy transition be made towards renewable energies in a sustainable way.
2. That a just and inclusive transition be guaranteed, to improve access to electricity for millions of Latin Americans who still do not have access to this basic service.

f) Biodiversity Loss/ Ecocide

We recognize that biodiversity loss and environmental destruction is one of the greatest challenges we face. There is great concern about the level of massive damage and environmental destruction in the region, particularly we point out the damage caused by traditional extractives models and how these are not the most suitable for the region in terms of sustainability.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That the productive structure be transformed, to achieve a system shift with equality and sustainability that overcomes extractives dependence or to seek alternatives to achieve a social and ecological transformation, and to promote and implement alternative measures to extractives.
2. That institutions and projects supported by the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* and other instruments be developed.
3. That, in order to investigate and prosecute Ecocide and crimes against the environment, the concept of Ecocide be included in *Article 5 of the Rome Statute* as an international crime. It will be necessary to encourage experts in the environment and international criminal law to propose a legal definition of ecocide so that it can be clearly considered an international crime and occupy a fair place, along with genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes among other related crimes.

g) Sustainable finance:

We recognize that it is necessary to promote the incorporation of sustainable practices by financial institutions, to direct the region towards a green recovery and ensure the transition to a sustainable, inclusive and low-carbon future, with financial models that consider the environmental impacts generated by economic activity.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That states implement national sustainable finance policies and start taking social and environmental factors into account in long-term investment decisions, to ensure the implementation of sustainable finances and the promotion of responsible investment. The financial sector plays a pivotal role for the development and growth of the region and is a key player in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

h) Waste Management

We recognize that incorrect waste management in the region is a major environmental challenge, it is urgent to end dangerous practices for the environment and human health related to poor waste management. The final disposal of waste in an uncontrolled manner or its lack of collection or incorrect disposal causes high levels of pollution in soils, water and air, affecting the quality of life of people and the environment. The low recycling capacity is another challenge facing the region.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That actions are implemented to achieve efficient management, which allows us to move towards a circular economy model, key to sustainable development.
2. That the management of electrical and electronic equipment waste be considered, and the problems associated with incorrect final disposals are being addressed.

i) Chemical Contamination

We recognize that it is urgent to initiate the transition to chemicals that are safer for human health and the environment, we need to identify and reduce the risks to environmental health caused by using chemicals in different economic activities.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That the countries of the region be supported in the development of protocols for the disposal of toxic waste and that dialogues be promoted among transboundary mechanisms to enforce international standards on the management of toxic waste.
2. That the region promotes the implementation of instruments such as the *Minamata Convention on Mercury*, the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal* and other international treaties agreed to protect human health and the environment.
3. That the use of high-hazard pesticides which cause adverse effects on human health and the environment be controlled/regulated.
4. That better strategies for the management of chemicals are formulated, that states review and address the significant damage to health and the environment caused by exposure to dangerous chemicals.
5. That the region adopts new political commitments to review and regulate the way chemicals are produced and applied, in order to reduce such damage.
6. That strategies to raise awareness are developed for this problem and that the public is informed.

j) Sustainable food production:

We recognize that soil deterioration, climate change and the scarcity of water and energy are major challenges for the region, and that its population will need to increase agricultural production, in a way that reduces inequality and prevents resource degradation and environmental damages. Science and technology can play a vital role in helping us address these challenges, for example by developing innovations that are within the reach of smallholder farmers and can be used by those with limited resources. Soil degradation, or the loss of its productive capacity and water management are crucial problems facing the region. Increased demand for food and scarcity of resources will put pressure on agricultural systems.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. That strategies aimed at increasing productivity within environmental limits be discussed and defined, supporting producers to sustainably increase their food production and facilitate the availability and access to food for all people.
2. That integration and cooperation in the region be promoted on this important issue at the global level, giving priority to ensure food security, but without putting the environment at risk.
3. The promotion of spaces for negotiation and dialogue based on science, economy and development .
4. That the creation of incentives for the consumption of local produce be promoted, and that vertical agriculture programs and other modalities be promoted where agriculture is applied in an environmentally friendly way.
5. That the competent authorities exercise the integral defense of our coasts and their resources from the incursions of vessels of local or foreign origin that carry out trawling and other prohibited fishing activities.

k) Youth Inclusion

We recognize that it is essential to ensure intergenerational equity in environmental action and encourage the participation of youth, and the creation of spaces where they are involved and where children and youth are heard. Youth want to be at the forefront of environmental care processes.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. The creation of a Global Youth Forum to keep youth informed and immersed in all processes.
2. That spaces be granted for youth in the main decision-making scenarios.
3. That the spaces of participation are attractive for younger generations so that more and more youth want to get involved.
4. That funds be granted to support projects or programs promoted by youth, which contribute to sustainable development, biodiversity and / or curb climate change.
5. That "adult-centrism" be discouraged, and that more inclusive intergenerational participation be encouraged; motivating the empowerment of youth.
6. That public policies be designed and implemented under a precautionary approach, considering the long-term effects and their possible effects on the next generation, in cases related to megaprojects and biotechnological activities. That compliance with laws and regulatory instruments for the private sector be strengthened, as well as strict sanctions for non-compliance.
7. That the establishment of institutionalized but culturally appropriate spaces and mechanisms for young people and children in all processes linked to public policies on biodiversity be promoted.

Finally, we call on all States in the region to increase their ambition and commitment to climate action and environmental conservation, recognizing that the environment is everyone's heritage and that we are currently facing an environmental crisis. For too long, we have been exploiting and destroying our ecosystems, affecting the quality of life of our peoples. It is urgent that we forge our way towards a more sustainable and equitable development model.

VI. Regional report from North America

North American Regional Input to UNEA-5 Executive Summary

In preparation for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), the United Nations Environment Programme's North America Office (UNEP North America) hosted a series of six virtual consultation workshops on the theme of "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals." In partnership with MIT Solve, the World Environment Center, and the United Nations Associations in Canada and the United States, UNEP North America convened over 400 North American stakeholders across the Major Groups to explore the topic of nature as a solution to the climate and biodiversity crises.

Building on the distributed consultation model implemented in preparation for UNEA-4, UNEP North America and its partners designed this regional consultative process to ensure broad and diverse stakeholder participation in UNEA-5, given the challenges and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Playing a crucial role in the design and implementation of the process were the four UNEA Regional Facilitators for North America. The Regional Facilitators were nominated by UNEA-accredited organizations, UNEP partners, and other stakeholders in the region, and were chosen by UNEP North America. They are:

- Regional Facilitator (Canada): Jennifer Garard, Science Officer, Future Earth
- Alternate Regional Facilitator (Canada): Dan Burns, Board Member, One Earth Initiative
- Regional Facilitator (United States): Anne Bowser, Director of Innovation, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- Alternate Regional Facilitator (United States): Celeste Connors, Executive Director, Hawai'i Green Growth

The six consultations were executed as follows:

- 20 May 2020: Youth consultation (United States), in partnership with United Nations Association of the United States of America, via their Global Engagement Online Series Platform
- 18 June 2020: Youth consultation (Canada), in partnership with the United Nations Association in Canada
- 3 September 2020: Public sector consultation (Canada), in partnership with the United Nations Association in Canada
- 24 September 2020: Private sector consultation (Canada), in partnership with the United Nations Association in Canada
- 8 October 2020: "Apex" major groups consultation (United States and Canada), in partnership with MIT Solve
- 14 October 2020: Private sector consultation (United States and Canada), in partnership with MIT Solve and the World Environment Center

In each consultation, participants were asked to share examples of nature-based solutions and best practices in North America, reflecting on both successes and challenges, and to formulate key messages to policy makers about the enabling conditions needed to scale these best practices. In addition to highlighting strong North American examples of nature-based solutions, discussions across the six consultations converged around the following common themes and key messages.

Both top-down and bottom-up approaches must work in tandem to achieve effective, long-term solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises. Participants called for clear commitments from government at all levels to a green recovery from COVID-19, including investment in nature-based solutions, renewable energy, and circular economy to address the climate and biodiversity crises. With leadership at the national level, governments can then set shared goals for a municipality or a region which have broad jurisdictional agreement and support, but focus on smaller-scale, local projects as an implementation strategy. Participants emphasized the need to support, incentivize, and scale up solutions happening at the grassroots level, noting that impactful localized projects can draw on shared science and replicated approaches, while also being rooted in their unique social and ecological context.

Co-designing nature-based solutions with stakeholders at the local level, particularly with indigenous communities, is key. Given the abundance of nature-based solutions being implemented at the local level, and the intimate knowledge of sustainable land and resource management in indigenous communities, decision-makers should prioritize community and indigenous input on policies to support nature-based solutions. Participants suggested that engaging local and tribal groups early and often in designing nature-based solutions could help build trust and ease the process of planning and implementing actions for nature. Ensuring appropriate cross-scale interactions would also be necessary in order to scale input from local levels and to learn from local experiences across the region.

Cross-sector collaboration is required to implement and sustain nature-based solutions. Participants stressed that complex problems require complex solutions. The regular convening of diverse stakeholders could also foster the cross-sector collaboration and public-private partnerships needed to systemically tackle the climate and biodiversity crises. Participants highlighted the need for feedback loops between the research and policy community and between the policy community and the private sector, for example, to strengthen approaches to nature-based solutions. Through these partnerships, actors across sectors can lead by example, demonstrating the diverse benefits of nature-based solutions and inspiring further collaboration on actions for nature.

Empowering youth and communities through education can inspire the sustainable lifestyle transition and behavior change needed to achieve the SDGs. There was a universal call in each consultation, but most strongly in the youth-focused discussions, for Environment and Education Ministers to focus on empowering actions for nature through education. Participants suggested starting early – instilling a deep appreciation for nature and commitment to sustainability – and developing year-round core curriculum and educational programming that support this shift for students of all ages. These changes should be implemented across disciplines, including the natural sciences, economics, and business, emphasizing interconnectivity and systems change. Participants emphasized that implementing sustained environmental education can help overcome common entrenched viewpoints and misconceptions about environmental action, create shared value, and ultimately empower youth to become stewards of the environment in their communities.

Innovation, data, and technology have an unprecedented role to play in designing and demonstrating the benefits of nature-based solutions. Participants noted that the climate, biodiversity, and COVID-19 crises are immense challenges, but also immense opportunities to jump-start innovation for nature. New technologies offer effective, efficient ways to implement nature-based solutions and quantify their impact. Participants stressed that open-source data can bring credibility, accountability, and monitoring to nature-based solutions. Demonstrating impact through data sharing can, in turn, empower local projects to build on successful models and implement strategic nature-based solutions in their own unique contexts. Further, scaling up innovative methods and technologies provides a prime opportunity for cross-sector collaborations to strengthen nature. Participants also cautioned that issues such as data sovereignty and privacy must be explicitly addressed in collaboration with stakeholders across scales.

The standardization of language and metrics around nature-based solutions is needed to define collective rules and impact. Participants highlighted the discordant understanding of nature-based solutions across sectors and jurisdictions. At the outset, stakeholders would benefit from a common definition of nature-based solutions and additional clarification of their diverse co-benefits. In designing and implementing nature-based projects, participants suggested that permitting and reporting requirements must also be standardized, while allowing replication across diverse sites, supply chains, and local contexts. Following implementation, stakeholders would also benefit from standard requirements for the calculation and verification of project impact. Participants noted that making this kind of information available and standardizing processes for the implementation of nature-based solutions would be particularly beneficial in the finance sector, for investors who are interested in environmental impact, but are not experts in nature-based solutions or natural capital.

Stakeholders must invest in nature, financing and derisking nature-based solutions. As participants noted in each consultation, local efforts to strengthen nature can be a key approach to reach larger sustainability goals, yet local nongovernmental organizations, community groups, and governments often have the least budget capacity to build knowledge. National or state-level government, philanthropic, and/or private funding can fill the gap in resources needed to enable clear goal-setting, adaptation, and implementation of nature-based projects. This support should be multi-year whenever possible, to allow for the time necessary to establish new approaches, measure project impacts, and identify best practices. Participants highlighted the possibility of instruments such as economic incentives, green bonds, biodiversity offsets, public procurement standards, and reinsurance mechanisms to encourage investment in nature, while demonstrating the cost-saving co-benefits of nature-based solutions.

Private sector entities should rise to the challenge of integrating sustainability into core business values. In consultations focused on engaging the private sector, participants noted that integrating sustainability and nature-based solutions throughout company objectives takes significant work and buy-in from leadership, but may be the only way to have durable impacts. Several participants discussed challenges around mismatched supply chain visibility and impact – that the sections of the supply chain with high impact are often several steps removed from public-facing brands or

those making decisions on sustainability. Yet these challenges present opportunities: investing in innovation, facilitating meaningful and ongoing community engagement, and internalizing environmental costs wherever possible. Integrating nature-based solutions into core business approaches is needed to achieve long-term sustainability at all levels of the supply chain.

A compendium of individual summary reports from the six virtual consultation workshops is included in the rep full report to provide more detailed insight into each group's discussion around the above themes.
