

**Ministerial declaration for the sixth session
of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

**“Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions
to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss,
desertification and pollution”**

1. We, the world’s ~~M~~inisters for the environment, have gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 February to 1 March 2024, together with representatives of international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the urgent aim of taking effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
2. We recall all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Rio+20 Principles, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and previous the UNEA Resolutions adopted by UNEA, the Paris Agreement, and the agreed intergovernmentally negotiated outcomes and decisions and welcome the recommendations of the Secretary General in his report *Our Common Agenda*, and the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.
3. ~~We acknowledge with great urgency the systemic threat to people, planet, prosperity and peace security and human development posed by the three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and pollution and other environmental degradation aspects, and emphasize the importance of integrated, nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based and science-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, including the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, that can strengthen resilience to present and future emerging risks with global solidarity, ~~while advancing the attainment of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all.~~~~
3-3 bis We recognize the need to further promote the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right
~~We welcome the important outcomes of the twenty-seventh conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, including the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund to support vulnerable countries-~~
4. ~~We welcome the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, including the decision¹ on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage.~~
4 bis We also welcome as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the twenty eighth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC including XXX , the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity including its adoption of the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD including the Abidjan Call to act on drought, desertification and land degradation.
5. ~~We also welcome with appreciation other important multilateral achievements including the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and the 2023 UN Water Conference, the high-level meeting on the mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the adoption of the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and the adoption of the agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.~~
4-5 bis We call on Member States to continue to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations with a sense of urgency, and seek to reach common ground for a fair and ambitious legally binding outcome of the INC by the end of 2024

¹ Decision 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4

~~5.6.~~ We note with great concern the main findings of the Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment report (AR6) approved in March 2023, and recognise that global greenhouse gas emissions will need to be halved by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5°C. By the current trajectory, as estimated by assessing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) announced by October 2021, it is likely that warming will exceed the 1.5°C target during the 21st century, which calls for significant rapid and sustained reductions in all sectors, while ensuring that the level of support provided to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change remains adequate.

~~6.7.~~ ~~We are aware that in order to revitalize the multilateral system and inspire decisive and collective action to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, we surely need to reinforce global inclusiveness and solidarity.~~

~~7.8.~~ We ~~are strongly committed~~ recognize the urgency to fulfill our strong political commitments to urgently address ~~our common and~~ global environmental challenges through scaling up action and the means of implementation to support, finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, technical and scientific cooperation, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability, effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, inter-generational and science- and knowledge-based actions together with all stakeholders including civil society, citizens, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector, and academia; and we therefore decide to redouble our efforts to implement take the following actions, taking into account, the special needs and priorities circumstances of the least greenhouse gas emitters and the most vulnerable, in particular, ~~Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), African States, and~~ developing middle-income countries:

- a. Deploy sustained global efforts to address climate change in line with the principles of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, including by addressing the urgent need for scaled up action for adaptation and resilience as well as loss and damage, recognizing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. We will spare no effort to protect our communities against natural disasters induced or exacerbated by the adverse impacts of climate change, ~~such as drought, famine, and flooding~~, recognizing the devastating impacts these impacts these phenomena have on societies, economies, and ecosystems social, economic and environmental dimensions, - undermining the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development
- b. ~~To take urgent action to halt and reverse combat~~ biodiversity loss in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by urgently reversing ecosystem decline, promoting and strengthening ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, while mitigating and adapting to climate change and boosting resilience, supporting sustainable food production, promoting One Health Approach and ensuring equitable benefits across economies and societies through robust safeguards and policies for environmental and social protection.
- c. End plastic pollution, as resolved in UNEA resolution 5/14, by fostering innovation, global collaboration, facilitating access to technology, capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation and public-private partnerships. ~~We call on Member States to continue to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations with a sense of urgency, and seek to reach common ground for a fair and ambitious legally binding outcome of the INC by the end of 2024.~~
- d. Deploy greater efforts, as well as mobilize and allocate adequate resources towards chemicals safety and management and the [adoption] / [progress toward adoption] / [other relevant language to be inserted subject to outcome of ICCM5] of a new chemicals and waste management framework during the Fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) held in September 2023.
- e. Incorporate environmental considerations into disaster risk management to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural disasters or human-made hazards, on human health and the environment and recommend using a combination of measures to strengthen the resilience to global risks, and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including actions on the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, pollution reduction and management, as well as actions to transform economic and financial systems and to ensure sustainable production and consumption.
- f. Act towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by advancing existing international commitments and obligations, ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of relevant climate change, biodiversity, desertification, and pollution decision-making, promoting gender

mainstreaming and integration across policies and actions and the safeguarding of marginalized groups and the most vulnerable, in our pursuit of inclusive solutions for climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, and pollution ~~that to~~ leave no one behind.

9. We will work towards using the potential of digital transformation as a necessary tool for sustainable economic and social behaviour at the global level, bridging existing digital divides, improving equal access to environmental information and harnessing new and emerging technologies for environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

8-9 bis We recognize the efforts made to prevent and control pollution carried out within the framework of the Multilateral Environmental Conventions on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances; and we welcome the progress made to establish a new regulatory framework for the elimination of plastics as marine pollutants; For this reason, we hope that "Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to address climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and pollution" will become a reality in the shortest term, and with this, contribute to environmental recovery. and the development of our peoples

9.10. We commit to continue to advocate a whole-of-society approach to a more inclusive and equitable digitalisation that effectively empowers vulnerable and low-income populations, to accelerate research, innovation, education and neighbourhood change, and to move towards the implementation of circular economy models along value chains and just transitions that can accelerate progress towards the achievement of climate change, biodiversity desertification, and pollution goals and targets.

10 bis We recognize the need of an effective, inclusive, sustainable, transformative, actions, with all stakeholders including civil society, citizens, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector, and academia

10.11. We call upon Member States to engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards a rapid mobilization of means of implementation, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, while welcoming ongoing efforts to reform the international financial architecture to provide additional funding, in particular concessional finance to support low- and middle-income countries tackle and adapt to climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, and pollution.

- [41:12](#). We reiterate our recognition of UNEP's role in strategic foresight and horizon scanning as well as in improving the capacities of Member States at all levels to stimulate and encourage long-term advance environmental decision-making bringing the most pressing emerging environmental issues to the attention of Governments. UNEP should therefore ensure that it continues to anticipate trends and risks, bring them to the attention of the world, particularly with the aim of prioritizing scientific research and promoting collective and multi-stakeholder responses to new challenges.
- [42:13](#). We call on UNEP, as the leading environmental authority within the United Nations, and echoing the UNEP@50 Ministerial Declaration, to intensify its support and assistance to Member States in the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the UNEA outcomes and UNEP' delivery, notably through the UN Country Teams, through access to scientific information, technologies, technical assistance and financial resources.
- [43:14](#). We look forward to the adoption of a Pact for the Future at the Future Summit in New York in September 2024, and urge all Member States as well as relevant NGOs, Major Groups and stakeholders to advocate for the implementation of the relevant actions set out in this statement during the consultation process to ensure an ambitious outcome that will reinvigorate environmental multilateralism, stimulate the implementation of existing commitments and agree on concrete solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence.
- [44:15](#). We therefore request the President of the UN Environment Assembly to transmit this statement as the UN Environment Assembly's contribution to the General Assembly for the Summit of the Future.
- [45:16](#). We invite the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements to work with the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote effective implementation of the commitments contained in this Declaration.