

IAAS (International Association of students in Agricultural and related Sciences)
FAYI (Food and Agriculture Youth Institute)
comments on zero draft of the UNEA-6 Ministerial Declaration

- The Ministerial Declaration recognizes the importance of addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, but **it should explicitly acknowledge the role of agriculture in these challenges**. Agriculture is both affected by and contributes to environmental issues, and as youth in agriculture, we have a crucial role to play in sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices.
- The declaration mentions the need for sustainable food production, but **it should emphasize the importance of promoting agroecological approaches and regenerative farming practices**. These methods prioritize biodiversity conservation, soil health, and ecosystem resilience, while also ensuring food security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- We welcome the declaration's focus on plastics and chemical pollution but **it should address the specific challenges and opportunities related to agricultural inputs**. We urge ministers to support the development and adoption of environmentally friendly alternatives to agrochemicals and single-use plastic packaging in the agricultural sector.
- The declaration's call for incorporating environmental considerations into disaster risk management is crucial. However, **it should specifically address the impact of climate change on agricultural systems and the need for resilient farming practices**. Investing in climate-resilient agriculture and providing support to farmers in adapting to changing climatic conditions should be a priority.
- We appreciate the mention of sustainable production and consumption. However, the declaration **should encourage the promotion of local and sustainable food systems from farm to fork**, which can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing food security, and supporting local farmers and communities.
- As young people, we urge decision-makers to **recognize the importance of supporting and empowering youth in agriculture**. This includes providing access to land, finance, training, and technology, as well as creating opportunities for youth participation in agricultural decision-making processes at all levels. By that, we urge all relevant stakeholders to provide all kinds of support to youth organizations and their umbrella organizations as they continue to shape the future generation of leaders.
- The declaration should also emphasize the need for **increased investment in agricultural research and innovation**. Supporting research on climate-resilient crops, sustainable

farming techniques, and digital technologies in agriculture can drive innovation and help address the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

- We support the commitment to a **more inclusive and equitable digitalization**. However, it should specifically **address the digital divide in rural areas and the importance of ensuring affordable and reliable internet access for farmers**. Digital technologies can enhance agricultural productivity, facilitate access to markets, and enable knowledge sharing among farmers.
- There is a need for **targeted financial and technical assistance for young farmers**. Access to affordable credit, grants, and capacity-building programs is crucial for youth in agriculture to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to environmental conservation.
- In summary, as youth in agriculture, we urge decision-makers to **recognize and prioritize the role of agriculture in addressing environmental challenges**. By providing support, resources, and opportunities for young farmers, we can contribute to sustainable and resilient food systems while safeguarding our environment.