Name of Member State / Organization	*International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL)*
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First Revised draft

Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session

Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet

[29 August 2025]

1. We, the world's ministers for the environment, have gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, together with representatives of international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders, at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the urgent aim of advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet.

2. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

3. {Placeholder} Global Youth Environment Assembly, December 2025.

4. {Placeholder} Seventh Edition of Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.

5. We **take note with appreciation of the Pact for the Future and welcome the findings of** the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem (IPBES) Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health.

6. We recognize that the interconnected nature of the global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, crimes that affect the environment, as well as desertification, land **and soil** degradation, drought and **deforestation**, requires urgent and collective responses from the international community, and therefore **decide to take the following actions:**

Action 1: We will take bold actions that drive sustainable solutions to address the global environmental challenges and crises of our time.

A. We, recognizing the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, **will strengthen international** cooperation among governments, international organizations, the scientific community and civil society, **which remains a fundamental catalyst** to advance sustainable, **equitable** and integrated solutions **to the global environmental challenges and crises we face**.

B. **We will** strengthen international and regional cooperation to prevent and reduce **all forms of** pollution and **promote** the **technological** development, **availability and accessibility to** advanced **pollution** monitoring systems to effectively **detect** and manage **pollution within and** across borders, ensuring an evidence-based and science-driven approach.

C. **We commit** to advancing circular economy approaches and policy responses **that promote resource efficiency** in consumption and production, waste minimization, **the prevention and minimization of exposures to harmful chemicals, the reduction of air, soil and water pollution** and the rethinking of product design across **its full life** cycle. **We will** advance innovation and systemic shifts **in all key high impact sectors** to reduce environmental impact for a resilient planet, **including through the implementation of 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns**.

D. **We will drive a transition to sustainable food systems and sustainable, healthy diets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing the importance of a multisectoral and integrated approach for addressing biodiversity loss, water stress, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and for achieving global food security, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant multilateral environmental agreements**.

E. **We will,** in an effort to create just and equitable societies and leave no one behind, champion **international cooperation to enable** a just transition towards a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. We will advocate for the widespread **development, transfer and** accessibility to renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. **We will promote the adoption of practices that** reduce resource intensity, **ensure traceability, transparency and accountability throughout value chains, including for critical minerals essential to the energy transition; and we will protect workers and communities impacted by the global shift towards a green and circular economy.**

F. We recognize that the increasing **variability of the global** water **cycle** and **deteriorating water quality** pose a significant challenge to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and affects the resilience of ecosystems, communities, and economies. We reaffirm our commitment to enhance sustainable water management, strengthen cooperation at all levels, and support innovative solutions, including nature-based solutions **and ecosystem-based approaches**, that promote water efficiency and equitable access to safe and clean water. We encourage sharing of knowledge, capacity building, and mobilizing resources to address water-related challenges in a holistic and integrated manner, **involving all relevant stakeholders**.

G. We will advance the implementation of the One Health approach at all levels, whilst enhancing the science knowledge and evidence amongst countries and stakeholders, for a coordinated and cross-sectoral response **to sustainably balance and optimize human, animal and ecosystem health, and to ensure pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a particular focus on addressing zoonotic disease emergence.** We will promote the **work of the** Quadripartite One Health Alliance to enhance its policy impact, in line with national circumstances and priorities, including by supporting the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group to draft and negotiate the Annex on Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing to the WHO Pandemic Agreement adopted on 20 May 2025, and encouraging the adoption of the Annex and opening the Agreement for signature and ratification.

H. We urge all Member States to pursue ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) **that include all greenhouse gases in an effort to limit global warming to 1.5°C through deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions and the transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems**, and to develop and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to advance resilient solutions, including nature-based solutions **and ecosystem-based approaches**, whilst ensuring **the inclusive engagement of all stakeholders and sectors within each country**. We urge **developed countries to continue taking the lead in providing and mobilizing financial resources, based on grants and high-concessional loans, to developing countries, to contribute to** the swift implementation of **the New** Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance **under the Paris Agreement**.

I. We stress the need to enhance coordination, coherence and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk **reduction** systems to advance climate-resilient development, while strengthening **disaster prevention**, preparedness, response and recovery capacities in the face of anthropogenic or climate-induced disasters, including droughts, wildfires, heat waves, heavy rains and floods, sand and dust storms. We call for the strengthening of disaster risk governance **to build long-term resilience** by integrating **ecosystem-based** disaster risk reduction **and nature-based solutions** into policies, programmes, and investments at all levels, and enhancing support for all countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), recognizing that **local vulnerabilities to climate change and disasters** are often exacerbated by climate fragility, armed conflicts, migration and displacement issues.

J. We encourage Member States to incorporate sustainable digital **technologies**, **including** Artificial Intelligence (AI), in national development plans to accelerate progress towards the achievement **of the SDGs**. **We also encourage** cooperation to deepen the scientific assessment of the environmental impacts of AI **to inform policy** and to exchange best

practices to ensure **environmentally** responsible **development** and deployment, while **promoting** accessibility and affordability of AI tools, leaving no one behind, **to implement the goals of the Global Digital Compact.**

Action 2: We will implement multilateral environmental agreements and other internationally agreed environmental frameworks with collective resolve and commitment.

K. We will advance the swift implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of chemicals and waste, by promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste across all sectors, which contributes directly to the Sustainable Development Goals.

L. **We welcome the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution and commit to advancing a strong science-policy interface in addressing the adverse impacts of chemicals, waste, and pollution on human health and the environment.**

M. We take note of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, we reaffirm our shared commitment to continue engaging constructively and actively and with a sense of urgency and solidarity in the ongoing negotiations, and we encourage the Chair, the Secretariat and the Executive Director of UNEP to reassess how the INC process is being conducted, with a view to successfully completing the work of the INC at the third part of its fifth session.

N. We call upon all States and regional economic integration organizations that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying, approving or accepting the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), towards its effective implementation. **We commit to enhancing and accelerating just and transformative action on marine ecosystems and marine species conservation and restoration, ocean governance, and sustainable fisheries, to foster sustainable ocean-based economies, and advance the implementation of the Political Declaration adopted at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference to safeguard marine biodiversity for present and future generations.**

O. We will advance the swift implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through **ambitious National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and** effective policy responses to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. **We will take urgent actions to:**

a. **address ecosystem degradation through land restoration, land protection and the conservation of at least 30% of land, freshwater, and oceans by 2030;**
b. **maintain ecosystem services that support all systems of life on Earth, including marine ecosystems which act as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. We recognize that we depend on these services for food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, the protection from natural disasters, as well as recreation and cultural inspiration. We also recognize the role of wild animals as facilitators of natural carbon sequestration, ecosystem and climate health and resilience.**
c. tackle species extinction and population decline by enhancing wildlife protection and strengthening efforts to prevent and combat the trafficking of wild animals and plants, and their unsustainable use and exploitation.

P. develop sustainable and humane food and agricultural production systems that can enhance food security, protect public health and enhance animal welfare.

Q. We will, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, increase finance for nature to close the biodiversity funding gap, by identifying and addressing harmful subsidies and mobilising at least 200 billion USD annually by 2030 from all sources, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in effective, timely and easily accessible manner, to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

R. We will strive for the achievement of the Land Degradation Neutrality targets of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification through the implementation of effective National Action Programmes and mobilizing financial resources, building capacity and facilitating technology transfer. Our efforts will focus on addressing land degradation and drought through restoration, land protection and conservation, as well as the development of sustainable food and agricultural production systems and practices that enhance food security.

Action 3: We will advance equity, inclusive societal participation and accessible means of implementation in our actions for the benefit of present and future generations.

S. **We call for enhanced efforts to** ensure adequate, **accessible**, and predictable means of implementation for developing countries to enable to tackle the global environmental challenges and crises **we face, whilst pursuing their sustainable development pathways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,** through adequate financing, capacity-building, and technology transfer.

T. We welcome efforts to reform the international financial architecture and the financing for development system **and call for making financial flows consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,** inviting cooperation and policy responses from all Member States and Observer States of the United Nations, relevant stakeholders, international financial institutions, global funds and financial mechanisms, multilateral development banks and private foundations. **We recognize the need to promote coherent policy and regulatory frameworks to mobilize and align public and private business and finance with the transition to sustainable, climate-resilient economies.**

U. **We will** promote gender equality **and intergenerational justice**, and enhance the engagement of women and girls, youth, **the elderly, persons with disabilities**, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and **people of African descent** in the conservation and protection of the environment and ensuring their inclusive and meaningful participation in decision-making processes to advance sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, whilst protecting and promoting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

V. We will deepen cooperation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, **local communities and people of African descent** to incorporate indigenous, **traditional** and local knowledge and practices in environmental decision-making, while further emphasizing the importance of localized and culturally sensitive approaches that empower all segments of society and contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, leaving no one behind.

Action 4: We will promote effective and coherent international environmental governance that adheres to the rules of international law.

W. **We reaffirm the critical importance of synergies, cooperation, and collaboration in the national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other internationally agreed frameworks. We invite the governing bodies of these agreements, while respecting their mandates and independence, to work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme to build a coherent and effective international environmental governance framework, promote integrated approaches, and ensure the full engagement of all countries.**

X. **We commit to** increasing the effectiveness of environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict, while urging all Member States to adhere to the rules of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable, in relation to the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict.

Y. **Recognizing that crimes that affect the environment are a serious threat to advancing sustainable solutions for a safer and more resilient planet, we invite Member States to harmonize legislation, improve international cooperation, and enhance data collection and enforcement capacity to protect the environment and its natural resources from the most serious offences, including by actively engaging with, and participating in the Open-ended intergovernmental expert group on crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related offences covered by the Convention, which has a mandate to, inter alia, identify gaps that may exist in the international legal framework to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment, and consider possible responses to those gaps, including the possibility, feasibility and merits of any additional protocol to the Organized Crime Convention**

Z. We note the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 23 July 2025 on obligations of States in respect of climate change, which provides authoritative clarification on the legal obligations of States under international law in relation to climate change and encourage all States to strengthen international cooperation and promote the implementation of the legal obligations referenced by the opinion, in line with existing international commitments and obligations.