

CANADA's preliminary views on the UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration- February 2025

Canada thanks the Oman Presidency for the opportunity to provide early input to the Ministerial Declaration process. We stand ready to support the Presidency and the UNEA Bureau in the preparations and success of UNEA. We offer the following on the proposed questions:

1. *What would the Ministers for the Environment propose as the most important elements and or key messages that would enable the ministerial declaration to take forward the UNEA theme in the most impactful manner?*
 - Overall, the UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration should be robust, ambitious, and comprehensive and address comprehensively the **crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution**.
 - Reaffirm **existing international environmental commitments and not drift away from or dilute them**; promote the rapid implementation of the Paris Agreement, KMGBF, Global Framework on Chemicals, new plastics treaty etc.
 - Refer to **the outcomes of CBD COP16 and COP16.2, UNCCD COP 16, BRS COP, UNOC 3, INC5.2 UNSG Climate Summit (TBD), and COP30**.
 - Strengthen the **cooperation, complementarity, synergies and coherence between MEAs**, international organizations and initiatives.
 - See additional topics under Q3 below.
2. *What key messages or conclusions from recent scientific reports would the Ministers for the Environment recommend for consideration in the ministerial declaration?*
 - Draw on **GEO7 findings** (to be launched at UNEA-7) and other products like the Global Environmental Data Strategy, reaffirming and building on the science-based foundation of UNEP and UNEA work.
 - Draw on the findings of the **IPBES Transformative change assessment (December 2024)** and the **IPBES Thematic Assessment of the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health (Nexus Assessment)** (December 2024).
 - Build on outcomes from **INC5.2** on plastic pollution to promote the rapid implementation of the **new global treaty on plastics pollution** and ambitious global action to reduce plastic waste and enhance resource efficiency.
 - Build on the outcomes of the OEWG-3.2 and the Intergovernmental meeting (June 2025) on the **science-policy panel for the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution**, and call for its rapid implementation.
3. *What proposed collective actions and policy solutions should the Ministers for the Environment adopt to advance the UNEA theme and promote effective and inclusive environmental governance?*
 - Strengthen global mechanisms for **extreme weather prediction and preparedness**, given the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including wildfires.
 - Advance cooperation towards **water-related goals and enhanced water protection**, including in support of strong outcomes at the 2026 UN Water Conference.

- Promote global efforts on **conservation and sustainable use of the ocean**, and resilience of coastal communities.
 - Commit to work alongside **Indigenous Peoples**, recognizing the importance of **traditional knowledge** and the need for inclusive decision making.
 - Address gender disparities, acknowledge the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental degradation on women and girls, gender-diverse people, youth and persons with disabilities and design **gender responsive** and **inclusive solutions**.
 - Highlight **circular economy** as a key pathway to sustainable consumption and production, addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and pollution.
 - Recognize the importance of expanding effort on **nature-based solutions**, building on the multilaterally agreed definition of NbS from UNEA 5.2.
 - Advance the mobilization of **climate and nature finance**, leveraging all sources and actors, including greater private-sector and philanthropic investment, towards climate, nature and environmental goals.
4. *Any other message(s) would the Ministers for the Environment wish to be considered or included in the ministerial declaration?*
- No additional messages.