

Name of Member States / Organization	Canada
Date	2025-05-01

ZERO DRAFT – 28th March 2025

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

Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet

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 welcome the Global Youth Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in December 2025 and its role in fostering active participation by young people in multilateral environmental governance.
3. We welcome the [ADD: seventh edition of the] Global Environmental Outlook [DEL: 2025] and its findings.

Para 3:

CAN proposes clarifying which GEO report will be tabled at UNEA-7.

4. We decide, recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority, to take the following actions:
 - (a) Strengthen international cooperation to [DEL: mitigate transboundary] [ADD: prevent and reduce] pollution issues, [ADD: including transboundary pollution,] [ADD: pollution from chemicals and waste, and air pollution, and their cumulative impacts], prioritize the development of advanced monitoring systems to effectively track and manage these issues [DEL: across borders], ensuring a science-driven approach [ADD: including Indigenous knowledge,] [DEL: to pollution control and environmental resilience], emphasizing on the effects of conflicts and call for [DEL: their] environmental evaluation and rehabilitation [ADD: of ecosystems].

Para 4(a):

CAN proposes replacing “mitigate” with “prevent and reduce,” which strengthens alignment with UNEP’s pollution action agenda and the prevention-first approach emphasized in the *Global Chemicals Outlook II* and relevant UNEA resolutions such as 5/14. “Prevent and reduce” more clearly prioritizes proactive measures and supports a life-cycle approach to pollution management.

CAN proposes adding language on pollution to avoid limiting the text to transboundary pollution (which is narrow in scope), and to capture chemical, air and waste pollution, which is a key driver of ecosystem degradation and health issues.

CAN proposes including a reference to Indigenous knowledge, as supported by UNDRIP.

CAN proposes the addition of “of ecosystems” to clarify the rehabilitation of ecosystem restoration or recovery to be more inclusive.

- (b) **[ADD: Recognizing that limiting global warming to 1.5°C, with no or limited overshoot, requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, we reaffirm the importance of responding to the outcomes of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement.]****[DEL: Stress the implementation of unprecedented emission reductions: Member States must commit to cutting 42% per cent off annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, phase out fossil fuels, and drastically scale up renewable energy].** Stronger international cooperation and support, including through enhanced climate finance **[ADD: and alignment of all financial flows with low-emission and climate resilient development]**, will be essential to deliver on the Paris Agreement.

Para 4(b):

CAN proposes textual revisions to align with commitments made under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.

- (c) Recognizing the interconnectedness of biodiversity loss, **[ADD: seasonal and long-term droughts,]** desertification, **[DEL: and]** the impacts of climate change, **[ADD: and pollution,]** we emphasize the need for integrated and coordinated approaches **[ADD:, such as nature-based solutions,]** **[ADD: informed by the best available science, and Indigenous knowledge]** to address these challenges **[ADD: while advancing climate-resilient development]**. Biodiversity loss accelerates land degradation and desertification, while climate change exacerbates these processes through rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events **[ADD:, among others. Pollution further intensifies these challenges by degrading and weakening the natural systems that support climate and biodiversity resilience]**.

Para 4(c):

CAN proposes the addition of a reference to droughts that exacerbate desertification.

CAN proposes the addition of “nature-based solutions” (NBS) as an example of an integrated approach; UNEA has emphasized the crucial role of NBS in this regard in UNEA resolution 5/5.

CAN proposes including a reference to Indigenous knowledge, as supported by UNDRIP.

CAN proposes the addition of language on pollution - an influencing factor that contributes to the other crises - as highlighted in the Global Chemicals Outlook II (UNEP, 2019), the UNEP *Making Peace with Nature* report (2021), and IPBES assessments.

- (d) Encourage Member States to engage and mobilize the international community **[ADD:, including private sector actors,]** to **[ADD: enable scaling up of finance]** **[DEL: enhance**

financial support] to facilitate the implementation of [ADD: the Paris Agreement, including the recently] agreed outcomes of the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held from 11 to 24 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018 – 2030.

Para 4(d):

CAN proposes the addition of “private sector actors” as expertise and financial flows can be leveraged from partners outside of governments and IOs.

CAN proposes to incorporate a broader consideration of private sources and to replace “enhance financial support” with “enabling scaling up of finance” to align with the decision on the New Collective Quantified Goal.

CAN proposes adding a reference to the Paris Agreement to acknowledge finance mobilized by the international community will be needed to implement the Paris Agreement, not just outcomes from COP29.

- (e) Foster synergies, cooperation and collaboration [ADD: when implementing respective obligations and commitments under] [DEL: to advance the effective and inclusive implementation of] Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other [ADD: relevant environmental instruments] [DEL: internationally agreed global commitments], inviting the governing bodies of MEAs, whilst respecting their independence and respective mandates, to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Assembly to promote integrated approaches and policy coherence.

Para 4(e):

CAN proposes changes to align the text with language under UNEA Resolution 6/4.

- (f) Call on regional forums of ministers of the environment and environmental authorities to engage in multilateral cooperation for a more effective international environmental governance that advances synergies and integrated solutions across climate change, biodiversity [ADD: loss] [DEL: and land] [ADD: ecosystem] degradation, [ADD: and] pollution and waste action.

Para 4(f):

CAN proposes language to ensure comprehensiveness of issues and ecosystems (including marine, not just land).

- (g) Advance circular economy [DEL: principles] [ADD: approach] by encouraging industries to adopt sustainable production and consumption models that emphasize resource efficiency, waste minimization, and the rethinking of product life cycles, through policy incentives and innovation, drive a systemic shift towards sustainability, reducing environmental impact and strengthening long-term planetary resilience.

Para 4(g):

CAN proposes referring to a circular economy "approach" to align with UNEA resolution 5/14.

- (h) Encouraging sustainable solutions and environmental policies [DEL: that is] based on scientific research [ADD: , Indigenous knowledge,] and innovations in monitoring, early warning and assessment systems in various fields to support the capacity of vital sectors. stressing the need to enhance coordination, coherence, and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk management systems.

Para 4(h):

CAN suggests including a reference to Indigenous knowledge, as supported by UNDRIP.

- (i) Call for the strengthening disaster risk governance to manage natural and manmade hazards by integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes, and investments at all levels, and calling for enhanced support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and countries facing specific challenges.
- (j) Stress the need to enhance coordination, coherence and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk management systems to advance climate-resilient development and enhance response and recovery against manmade and natural disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as droughts, heavy rains, wildfires, heat waves, famines and flooding, leaving no one behind.
- (k) Champion a just transition towards a clean energy future by advocating for the widespread accessibility and adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, [DEL: and the advancement of environmental rule of law]. Ensure that [DEL: the shift to a low-carbon economy is inclusive and equitable, by] reducing emissions across [DEL: industrial, transportation, and residential] [ADD: all] sectors [ADD: accounts for workers and communities and] [DEL: this transition] contributes to climate resilience while fostering sustainable economic growth.

Para 4(k):

CAN proposes some adjustments that move toward a more widespread understanding of just transition, namely with an inclusive and equitable element, as well as a reference to workers, and capturing all sectors.

- (l) Call for enhance the efforts for an effective implementation of sustainable development goals which requires strong support for technology and knowledge transfer, as well as capacity building. This includes fostering partnerships that enable access to new technologies, expertise, and resources, while strengthening local skills and institutions. By [DEL: enhancing] [ADD: recognizing Indigenous knowledge, as well as] the capabilities of local communities and industries, developing countries can better drive their own growth and development.

Para 4(l):

CAN proposes including reference to Indigenous knowledge, as supported by UNDRIP.

- (m) Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise between governments and international organizations and [ADD: other partners, including the private sector, civil society, academia, and Indigenous Peoples, to advance] collective action [ADD: and build respective capacity] to combat different environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, [DEL: and] biodiversity loss [ADD: , and land degradation], building capacity at national scale.

Para 4(m):

CAN proposes the addition of “other partners”: There is much expertise to be leveraged from partners outside of governments and IOs.

CAN proposes the addition of “land degradation” to provide a broader scope and capture this important issue.

- (n) Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet and encourage, develop & incorporate digital solutions and AI in national plans as innovative solutions that contribute to accelerate achieving SDG plan towards sustainability and encouraging the full access to data.
- (o) Stress the need for a comprehensive assessment of the potential negative [ADD: and positive] environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, including energy consumption and carbon emissions associated with digital infrastructure. This [DEL: should] [ADD: could] be accompanied by strengthened regulatory frameworks and standards to ensure its development and use align with environmental sustainability principles and ecosystem protection, while promoting international cooperation and the exchange of best practices for responsible and ethical AI deployment.

Para 4(o):

CAN proposes addition of “positive” as both should be assessed.

CAN proposes replacing “should” with “could” to avoid prescriptive language.

(o)bis [ADD: Placeholder for Third United Nations Ocean Conference.]

Para 4(o)bis:

CAN proposes adding a new paragraph as a placeholder for the upcoming UNOC3.

- (p) [Placeholder on the outcome of the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.]
- (q) [Placeholder on the outcome of the [DEL: resumed third session of the ad hoc open ended working group on a] [ADD: Intergovernmental Meeting on the] science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.]

Para 4(q):

The resumed third session of the OEWG will focus on finalizing the proposal for the establishment of the science-policy panel. However, it is at the Intergovernmental Meeting — which will take place immediately afterward, in June 2025 — that the formal consideration and potential adoption of the panel’s establishment will occur.

- (r) Call for ecosystem protection [ADD: conservation and restoration, including] by strengthening nature-based solutions, ensuring sustainable water management, [DEL: minimizing] [ADD: halting] deforestation and forest degradation, and safeguarding, conserving, and restoring degraded land, soil, and ecosystems. These ecosystems support food, water, and energy security, serve as habitats for biodiversity, and contribute to carbon storage and sequestration. Their preservation delivers numerous

economic, social, and environmental co-benefits, reinforcing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Para 4(r):

CAN proposes the addition of conservation and restoration as it is more inclusive of other approaches (e.g. beyond protected areas) that can serve these objectives, and to account for the importance of restoring nature in addition to conserving it.

CAN proposes replacing “minimizing” with “halting” to align with language used by the UN Forum on Forests and the FAO.

(r)bis [ADD: Placeholder for the outcomes of the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.]

Para 4 (r)bis:

CAN proposes adding a new paragraph as a placeholder for the outcomes of COP30.

- (s) Invite member states to enhance the role of women, youth [DEL: and], civil society, [DEL: indigenous people] [ADD: and Indigenous Peoples] in the protection of the environment and to ensure their inclusive participation in decision-making processes, protecting and respecting [DEL: the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment] [ADD: human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples].

Para 4(s):

CAN proposes capitalizing Indigenous Peoples to align with UNDRIP.

CAN proposes text to refer to human rights generally, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and therefore capturing the rights of all the groups mentioned.

(s)bis [ADD: Placeholder for the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.]

Para 4(s)bis:

CAN proposes adding a new paragraph as a placeholder for the outcomes the BRS COP.

- (t) Commit to cooperate to transition to sustainable food systems in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing with great urgency that a multisectoral and integrated approach to food systems is critical to achieving global food security, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, while accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
- (u) Urge Member States, international financial institutions, private foundations, funds and other actors to cooperate to align the global financial architecture with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strengthen national policy and regulatory frameworks to enhance [ADD: actions and investments] [DEL: the transparency, availability and predictability of financial support] to [ADD: rapidly] implement the goals and targets of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework [DEL: and] the Global Framework on Chemicals [ADD: the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of

Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)
and the [ADD: placeholder for title of Global Agreement on Plastic Pollution].

Para 4(u):

CAN proposes with the term “actions and investments” to include both domestic and international actions and investments.

CAN proposes the addition of the BBNJ Agreement, which is expected to enter into force either in the last quarter of 2025 or the 1st quarter of 2026 as well as a placeholder for the Global Agreement on plastic pollution.