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Final Outcome Document of the Fifth Session of the
Environment Assembly

Message from the Fifth Session of the United Nations
Environment Assembly —

A forward-looking perspective toward the resumed
United Nations Environment Assembly in 2022
Nairobi, 22–23 February 2021 (held online)

The fifth session of the United Nations Environment
Assembly, meeting online to hold part one of its
session in Nairobi on 22–23 February 2021,

Recognizing the exceptional circumstances caused by
the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and
the urgent need to continue efforts to protect our
planet,

Wishing to strengthen our support for the United
Nations and for multilateral cooperation, and
convinced that collective action is essential to
successfully address global challenges,

Expressing deep concern at the global impacts of the
COVID-19 pandemic, which have created new and
serious health, social, economic, and environmental
challenges and multiplied existing ones, especially in
developing countries, thereby undermining shared
efforts to eradicate poverty and to achieve the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing, more than ever, that human health and well-being depend on nature and on the solutions it provides,

Recognizing that we will face the risk of future pandemics if current unsustainable patterns in our interactions with nature continue,

Expressing grave concern at the continued loss of biological diversity and the degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems and wildlife habitats; and at the risks to lives and livelihoods from climate change, pollution, waste, and poorly managed chemicals, which endanger the environment and the overarching objective of sustainable development,

Reaffirming the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate on global environmental issues,

Welcoming UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2025 and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022–2023, and commending UNEP for its rapid contribution to the environmental dimension of the social and economic response to COVID-19,

Dedicating efforts to support a sustainable and inclusive recovery that protects planet Earth, stimulates sustainable consumption and production, invigorates economies, creates decent and sustainable

jobs, makes real progress in eradicating poverty, and at the same time strengthens resilience to similar crises in the future,

Will enhance efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and reaffirms the urgent need to take action to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- (1) The message in this document does not represent a negotiated outcome of UNEA-5 and does not set a precedent for the resumed UNEA-5 or for any subsequent session of the Environment Assembly.
- (2) This message is issued without formal editing.

Further,

Stresses the critical importance of achieving more progress across all multilateral environmental fora, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement; the Convention on Biological Diversity and the negotiations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and the negotiations on a post-2020 approach to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste,

Will meet again in person to hold the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly in Nairobi in early 2022 to continue joint efforts to take action for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to make further progress in implementing resolutions and decisions from previous sessions of

the Environment Assembly, including on the future of the Global Environment Outlook and on marine litter and microplastics,

Will dedicate efforts to commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme by General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 1972, and to contributing to an impactful commemoration in Nairobi in early 2022,

Calls, as a matter of urgency, for collective, science-based, and inclusive action through work and decisions at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.