

Group of 77 and China Inputs for the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-7

- 1. The Group wishes at the outset to commend the UNEA-7 President for circulating the zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration on time. The Group also welcomes the adherence to the set timeline, and wishes to express confidence in the able leadership of H.E Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority of the Sultanate of Oman, to steer the work of UNEA-7 towards success.**
- 2. The Group is looking forward to a transparent and inclusive consultations process that leads, through constructive engagement, to the development of a concise, balanced, consensus-based and action-oriented Ministerial Declaration.**
- 3. The Group underlines the importance of building on the previous multilateral political engagements as reflected in the Ministerial Declarations of past Environment Assemblies, particularly the UNEA6 Ministerial Declaration, in which Member States have reaffirmed their commitment to all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular the Principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities. Moreover, the Group would like to see the text reflecting Member States' commitments to the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC and its guiding principles, expressly the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities. Furthermore, the Group emphasizes the importance of adopting a comprehensive and equitable approach to sustainable development in its three dimensions –environmental, social, and economic-, one that fully considers the needs and priorities of the Global South. The Group recalls that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge, and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development**
- 4. The Group would also like the Declaration to emphasize the Paris Agreement's call for developed countries to take the lead in practical and sustainable patterns of production and consumption, to address the adverse effects of climate change. This includes facilitating the enhanced action on technological development and transfer, in order to support implementation, in pursuit of our collective long-term vision, and in order to improve resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as stipulated in Art. 10 of the Paris Agreement.**
- 5. The Group emphasizes that a UNEA Ministerial Declaration carries the political responsibility of acknowledging the need of developing countries to have access to adequate, predictable, and sufficient means of implementation, the mobilization of which should be primarily led by developed countries, while considering the historical responsibilities, the difference in capabilities and the lack of institutional capacities. These include scaling up financial support, transfer and development of technology, capacity-building, partnerships, and the sharing of best practices, without which environmental commitments risk becoming aspirational rather than actionable.**
- 6. The Group would like to underline the role of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority and its important role in supporting Member States in addressing the pressing environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, drought, land degradation, sand and dust storms, among others. In this regard, the Declaration should also reaffirm our steadfast commitments to addressing these challenges in a balanced manner. It is also vital to increase the effectiveness of**

environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts, in accordance with UNEA Resolution 6/12.

- 7. Finally, the Group trusts that the UNEA-7 Presidency will, if necessary, submit any controversial issue in the Declaration for review by Member States, with a view to reaching consensus. The Group would like to reiterate its strong commitment to upholding multilateralism, and to stress the importance of inclusive consultations, to which it is committed to support and engage constructively, in keeping with the Nairobi Spirit.**