

Submission by the Saudi Green Building Forum

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Entity: Saudi Green Building Forum (SGBF)

Affiliation: Business and Industry Major Group and Other Stakeholders

Cover Note

The Saudi Green Building Forum (SGBF) is pleased to submit the following input on the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).

This contribution reflects our collective commitment to advancing sustainable development through green innovation, circular economy principles, science-based environmental governance, and inclusive partnerships. It draws on the experience of SGBF in promoting local and regional implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in alignment with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and global environmental priorities.

The attached proposed version of the Zero Draft aims to:

- Improve clarity, structure, and coherence across thematic areas;
- Strengthen the focus on science-based decision-making, capacity building, and responsible technological innovation;
- Promote inclusive participation of women, youth, indigenous peoples, business, and civil society;
- Support alignment of financial and governance frameworks with the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and other global commitments.

We reaffirm our full support for UNEA's leadership and call for ambitious, united action to advance a resilient, just, and sustainable future for all.

We thank the UNEA Secretariat, Member States, and Major Groups and Stakeholders for considering this input.

Revised Ministerial Declaration

Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet

Preamble

We, the world's ministers for the environment, gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, alongside representatives of international organizations, major groups, and other stakeholders at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), united by the urgent need to advance sustainable solutions for a resilient planet.

We welcome the outcomes of the Global Youth Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi in December 2025, and acknowledge its crucial role in fostering the active participation of young people in multilateral environmental governance.

We also welcome the Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2024/2025, recognizing their critical findings.

Recognizing the central importance of sustainable development, we commit to the following actions:

1. Strengthening Global Environmental Governance

- Enhance international cooperation to address transboundary pollution issues through the development of advanced monitoring systems and science-driven approaches.
- Foster the effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and promote policy coherence, while respecting the independence of their governing bodies.
- Strengthen regional consultation forums of ministers and environmental authorities to promote integrated and synergistic solutions across climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and land degradation.

2. Accelerating Climate Action and a Just Energy Transition

- Commit to reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2030, phasing out fossil fuels, and scaling up renewable energy adoption.
- Reaffirm strong international cooperation and enhanced climate finance as essential to delivering Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.
- Champion a just and inclusive transition towards a low-carbon economy, ensuring equitable access to renewable energy, clean water, and sustainable infrastructure across industrial, transportation, and construction sectors.
- Mobilize the international community to support the outcomes of the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

3. Advancing Biodiversity, Land Restoration, and Ecosystem Resilience

- Emphasize the interconnectedness of biodiversity loss, desertification, and climate change, and promote integrated solutions to these challenges.
- Support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the outcomes of UNCCD COP16, Riyadh, including the Strategic Framework 2018–2030.
- Advance nature-based solutions (NbS) to protect, conserve, and restore degraded ecosystems, ensuring sustainable water management and minimizing deforestation and forest degradation.
- Recognize the critical role of ecosystems in supporting food, water, and energy security, biodiversity conservation, and climate mitigation.

4. Combatting Pollution and Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Promote circular economy principles by encouraging industries to adopt sustainable production and consumption models focused on resource efficiency, waste minimization, and product lifecycle innovation.
- Support systemic shifts toward sustainable consumption patterns through policy incentives, technological innovation, and public-private collaboration.
- [Placeholder: Outcome of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a plastics treaty.]
- [Placeholder: Outcome of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel for chemicals and waste.]

5. Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems

- Strengthen disaster risk governance by integrating risk reduction into policies, programs, and investments at all levels.
- Enhance coordination, coherence, and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk management to build climate-resilient development pathways.
- Prioritize support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and other vulnerable regions, leaving no one behind.

6. Digital Sustainability and Responsible Artificial Intelligence

- Promote the development and incorporation of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to accelerate environmental monitoring, early warning, and decision-making processes.
- Encourage the integration of AI into national environmental plans as a tool for advancing sustainability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Conduct comprehensive assessments of the environmental impacts of AI, including its energy consumption and carbon footprint, and establish regulatory frameworks aligned with environmental sustainability principles.
- Intentionally design AI governance structures to promote sufficiency and human and ecological well-being over purely profit-driven models.
- Strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of best practices for the responsible deployment of digital technologies.

7. Empowering Capacity Building, Technology Transfer, and Sustainable Finance

- Enhance efforts to facilitate technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to support national and local implementation of sustainable development initiatives.
- Foster partnerships that expand access to new technologies, expertise, and resources, empowering local communities and industries to drive their own sustainable growth.

- Urge Member States, international financial institutions, trust foundations, and other actors to align the global financial architecture with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and environmental treaties, ensuring transparency, predictability, and accountability in financial support.

In this context, we highlight the Green Building Localizing Initiative led by the Saudi Green Building Forum (SGBF), which aims to accelerate the adoption of sustainable building practices by adapting international green building standards to national and local contexts. By localizing sustainability frameworks, enhancing regulatory alignment, and promoting capacity-building programs, this initiative supports the creation of resilient urban environments, fosters green economic growth, and advances the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the community level.

8. Promoting Inclusive, Rights-Based Environmental Governance

- Promote the full and meaningful participation of women, youth, indigenous peoples, civil society, and business stakeholders in environmental decision-making processes.
- Reaffirm the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and call for collective action to protect and respect this right at all levels.

Conclusion

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to building a resilient planet for present and future generations.

We call upon all nations and stakeholders to strengthen solidarity, ambition, and action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and global environmental agreements, leaving no one behind.

In unity, innovation, and determination, we move forward to secure a sustainable future for all.