

Name of Member States / Organization	Environmental Investigation Agency (observer)
Date	16 th April 2025

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 Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.
4. We decide, recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority, to take the following actions:

(a) Strengthen international cooperation to mitigate transboundary pollution issues, prioritize the development of advanced monitoring systems to effectively track and manage these issues across borders, ensuring a science-driven approach to pollution control and environmental resilience, emphasizing on the effects of conflicts and call for their environmental evaluation and rehabilitation.

(b) Stress the implementation of unprecedented emission reductions: Member States must commit to cutting 42% per cent off annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, adopt both near- and long-term reduction targets for phase out fossil fuels production and demand in line with 1.5 pathways, end fossil fuel subsidies and cease approval for new fossil fuel projects, and while drastically scaling up renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification. Stronger international cooperation and support, including through enhanced climate finance, will be essential to deliver on the Paris Agreement.

(b*) Stress the need for a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts associated with the production, consumption and export of fossil fuels, including their contributions to climate change, biodiversity loss and air and water pollution. This should be accompanied by the development of an international governance framework that promotes monitoring, reporting and verification, incentivises the adoption of phase out plans and enhances technical and financial assistance for developing countries.

(c) Recognizing the interconnectedness of biodiversity loss, desertification, and the impacts of climate change, we emphasize the need for integrated and coordinated approaches to

Commented [A1]: Suggest including language to specifically reference a reduction of **all** greenhouse gases, i.e., including super-pollutants (such as methane, N2O & HFCs), in addition to the necessary reductions of CO2.

Commented [A2]: Would be great to have something more specific than 'commit to phase out fossil fuels' in this paragraph as is the only mention in the entire declaration

Commented [A3]: Also interconnected with these issues is **nitrogen pollution** (or nutrient loss), which has **impacts across biodiversity** (e.g. by causing eutrophication), **climate change** (e.g. N2O is GWP 273), **desertification & beyond** (e.g. N2O most significant ozone depleting substance - depleted ozone layer means higher UV levels, directly harming human health and degrading ability of plants and soils to thrive and store carbon).

Suggest language included to reflect this. Could connect to **CBD Target 7**, which aims to reduce nutrient loss to the environment by 50% by 2030.

address these challenges. Biodiversity loss accelerates land degradation and desertification, while climate change exacerbates these processes through rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events.

~~(b)~~(d) Acknowledge the impacts that environmental issues such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss have on human health and encourage Member States to accelerate actions to address this.

~~(e)~~(e) Encourage Member States to engage and mobilize the international community to enhance financial support to facilitate the implementation of 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.

~~(d)~~(f) Foster synergies, cooperation and collaboration to advance the effective and inclusive implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other 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.

~~(e)~~(g) 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 and land degradation, pollution and waste action, including minimising the impacts on human health.

~~(h)~~(h) Advance circular economy principles 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.

~~(g)~~(i) Encouraging sustainable solutions and environmental policies that is based on scientific research 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.

~~(h)~~(j) 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.

~~(i)~~(k) 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.

~~(j)~~(l) Champion a just transition towards a clean energy future by advocating for the widespread accessibility and adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and the advancement of environmental rule of law. Acknowledge the health risks posed by climate change and ~~E~~nsure that the shift to a low-carbon economy is inclusive and equitable, by reducing emissions across power, industrial, transportation, food systems and residential sectors, this transition contributes to climate resilience while fostering sustainable economic growth.

Commented [A4]: Again suggest reflecting nitrogen pollution/nutrient loss in the language used here, e.g., “...climate change, pollution, including nitrogen pollution, and biodiversity loss...”

Commented [A5]: Suggest adding language that indicates the shift to a low-carbon economy must avoid pollution swapping, i.e., transitions which reduce emissions of CO₂, at the expense of increasing other forms of environmentally harmful pollution.

E.g. in international shipping, efforts to decarbonise by switching to ammonia as a fuel are likely to drive significant increases in emissions of N₂O (~300 times more potent than CO₂, and an ozone depleting substance), unless strict international regulations and best practices are agreed to and enforced.

Commented [A6]: I think useful to mention health risks in relation to climate change somewhere in this declaration. Also added power and food systems in list of key sectors - still the two most politically sensitive it seems

(+)(m) 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 enhancing the capabilities of local communities and industries, developing countries can better drive their own growth and development.

(+)(n) Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise between governments and international organizations and collective action to combat different environmental issues such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, building capacity at national scale.

(+)(o) Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet and to 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.

(+)(p) Stress the need for a comprehensive assessment of the potential negative environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, including energy consumption, reliance on fluorinated refrigerants and carbon emissions associated with digital infrastructure. This should 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.

(+)(q) [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.]

(+)(r) [Placeholder on the outcome of the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.]

(+)(s) Call for ecosystem protection by strengthening nature-based solutions, ensuring sustainable water management, minimizing deforestation and forest degradation, and safeguarding, conserving, and restoring degraded land, soil, and terrestrial and aquatic 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

(+)(t) Invite member states to enhance the role of women, youth and civil society, indigenous people in the protection of the environment and to ensure their inclusive participation in decision-making processes, protecting and respecting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

(+)(u) 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.

(+)(v) 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 the transparency, availability and predictability of financial support to implement the goals and targets of the Paris Agreement, the

Commented [A7]: Again suggest reflecting nitrogen pollution/nutrient loss in the language used here, e.g., "...climate change, pollution, including nitrogen pollution, and biodiversity loss..."

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Commented [A8]: An important and frequently overlooked element of the data centre boom which has very significant environmental and climate impacts. Strongly suggest inclusion of this language, or language to this effect.

Commented [A9]: Suggest including language to acknowledge the lifecycle impacts of plastic pollution on both environment and health, including making reference to the outcome of INC 5.2. The language on plastics should reflect the UNEA 5/14 mandate and align with SDG12 and refer to the sustainable production and consumption of plastics and welcome the outcomes of 5.2.

Commented [A10]: Suggest adding language to reference "reducing nutrient losses" to this list, in line with CBD target 7 noted in a previous comment.

Commented [A11]: Again, suggest it is important to include language referencing nitrogen pollution/nutrient losses in this context.

UNEP/FAO Global N2O Assessment 2024 makes it clear that sustainable nitrogen management can simultaneously deliver environmental benefits whilst meeting future food demand, consistent with existing food security goals.

<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/46562;jsessionid=0684E4AFDE073381EEB07689319AB5CB>

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.