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First draft

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

Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet

[29 May 2025]

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 reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.
3. {Placeholder} Global Youth Environment Assembly, December 2025.
4. {Placeholder} Seventh Edition of Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.
5. We welcome the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem (IPBES) Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health
6. We recognize that the interconnected nature of the global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, drought and land degradation, pollution, sand and dust storms among others requires urgent and collective responses from the international community, ~~and~~ We further recognize the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. We acknowledge that integrating animal welfare into environmental policy is essential to achieving resilient ecosystems, sustainable food systems, and climate goals. ~~Therefore, we~~ decide to take the following actions:

Action 1: We will take bold actions that drive sustainable solutions to address the global environmental challenges and crises of our time.

- A. We, recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority, call on Member States to advance sustainable and integrated solutions and promote cooperation and

Commented [1]: We suggest adding a sentence recognizing animal welfare as a component of sustainability, especially for aquatic systems, which are currently overlooked in global environmental declarations

exchange among governments, international organizations, the scientific community and civil society.

- B. Strengthen international and regional cooperation to prevent and reduce transboundary pollution issues and prioritize the development of advanced monitoring systems to effectively track and manage these issues across borders, ensuring utilizing evidence-based and science-driven approach to pollution control and environmental resilience.
- C. Encourage Member States to advance circular economy approaches and policy responses towards sustainable consumption and production that promote resource efficiency, waste minimization and the rethinking of product design and life cycles, advance incentives and innovation and drive a systemic shift towards sustainability, whilst reducing environmental impact for a resilient planet.
- D. Champion a just transition towards a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by advocating for the widespread accessibility and adoption of renewable energy, energy efficient technologies and reduced resource intensity, in an effort to create just and equitable societies, leaving no one behind.
- E. Recognizing that increasing water scarcity poses a significant challenge to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and affects the resilience of ecosystems, communities, and economies, we reaffirm our commitment to enhancing sustainable water management, strengthening cooperation at all levels, and supporting innovative solutions and nature-based solutions that promote water efficiency and equitable access to safe and clean water. We encourage Member States and relevant stakeholders to share knowledge, build capacity, and mobilize resources to address water-related challenges in a holistic and integrated manner.
- F. Advance the implementation of the One Health approach at all levels, whilst enhancing the science, knowledge and evidence amongst countries and stakeholders, for a coordinated and cross-sectoral response, and promoting the Quadripartite One Health Alliance and complementary One Welfare frameworks to enhance its policy impact, in line with national circumstances and priorities.
- G. Encourage all Member States to pursue ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to advance resilient solutions, including Nature-based solutions, whilst ensuring sustainable resource management, the swift implementation of New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, and the inclusive engagement of all stakeholders and sectors within each country.

Commented [2]: We recommend explicitly including the One Welfare approach alongside One Health to ensure animals are not left out of cross-sectoral resilience planning.

Commented [3]: Consider referencing the role of food systems—especially aquatic food systems—in mitigation and adaptation. These are among the highest-emitting and least-regulated sectors and merit specific mention.

- H. Stress the need to enhance coordination, coherence and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk management systems to advance climate-resilient development and strengthen preparedness, response and recovery capacities in the face of anthropogenic or climate-induced disasters, including droughts, heavy rains, wildfires, heat waves, famines floods, sand and dust storms, leaving no one behind, and call for the strengthening disaster risk governance by integrating of disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes, and investments at all levels, and enhanced support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and countries facing specific challenges, recognizing that these challenges are often exacerbated by climate fragility, armed conflicts, migration and displacement issues.
- I. Encourage Member States to incorporate sustainable digital solutions and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in national development plans as innovative solutions that contribute to accelerating the achievement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and cooperate to deepen knowledge and the scientific assessment of the environmental impacts of AI, exchange best practices for responsible deployment, while encouraging accessibility and affordability of data and AI tools as appropriate, leaving no one behind.

Action 2: We will implement multilateral environmental agreements and other internationally agreed environmental frameworks with collective resolve and commitment.

- J. Advance the swift implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals to protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of chemicals and waste, by promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste across all sectors, which contributes directly to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- K. {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.
- L. {Placeholder} on the outcome of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment taking into consideration national circumstances and capabilities for developing countries.
- M. Call upon all States and regional economic integration organizations that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying, approving or accepting the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of

Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), towards its effective implementation. This milestone reflects our shared commitment to strengthening ocean governance, advancing equity, and safeguarding marine biodiversity for current and future generations.

- N. Advance the swift implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and strive for the achievement of the Land Degradation Neutrality targets of the UNCCD through effective policy responses and financial resources to halt and reverse biodiversity loss; address ecosystem, land degradation and drought through land restoration, land protection and conservation; maintain ecosystem services and develop sustainable food and agricultural production systems that include aquatic food systems and promote high-welfare, low-impact production models to ~~can~~ enhance food security.

Commented [4]: Include aquatic food systems explicitly and align biodiversity protection with responsible aquaculture reform

Action 3: We will advance equity, inclusive societal participation and accessible means of implementation in our actions for the benefit of present and future generations.

- O. Ensure adequate and predictable means of implementation for developing countries to enable them to advance sustainable solutions to tackle the global interconnected environmental challenges and crises through adequate financing, capacity-building, and technology transfer.
- P. Welcome efforts to reform the international financial architecture and the financing for development system, inviting cooperation and policy responses from all Member States and Observer States of the United Nations, relevant stakeholders, international financial institutions, global funds and financial mechanisms, multilateral development banks and private foundations.
- Q. Invite Member States to promote gender equality and enhance the engagement of women, girls, youth, civil society, including those advocating for nonhuman animal protection and sentient species, Indigenous Peoples, local communities in the conservation and protection of the environment and ensuring their inclusive and meaningful participation in decision-making processes to advance sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, whilst protecting and promoting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Commented [5]: We suggest widening recognition of civil society to include those working on the welfare of sentient animals, especially where it intersects with environmental justice

R. Call on Member States to deepen cooperation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples to incorporate indigenous and local knowledge and practices in environmental decision-making, while further emphasizing the importance of localized and culturally sensitive approaches that empower all segments of society and contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, leaving no one is left behind.

R.S. We acknowledge the need for greater coherence between food production, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare. We invite Member States to evaluate the impacts of aquaculture and fisheries policies on ocean health, sentient aquatic life, and climate outcomes, and to explore sustainable, welfare-centered alternatives such as low-trophic aquaculture and habitat-positive marine restoration.

Commented [6]: This paragraph would help future-proof the declaration by embedding forward-looking guidance on responsible aquatic food production and biodiversity

Action 4: We will promote effective and coherent global environmental governance that adheres to the rules of international law.

S.T. In light of the accelerating and multifaceted environmental and climate challenges that pose significant risks to the planet, it is imperative to build decisively upon existing UNEA resolution 6/4 on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments with clearly articulated roles and responsibilities. Such a coordinated and integrated approach will unify global efforts, optimize synergies, and ensure the delivery of efficient, effective, and coherent environmental outcomes aligned with our shared international commitments and the urgent demands of our time.

T.U. Collaborate towards the full implementation of the UNEA resolution 6/12 to increase the effectiveness of environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict, while urging all Member States to adhere to the rules of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable, in relation to the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict.