

Name of Member State / Organization	OHCHR
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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, as well as the negative impact of these crises on human rights, in particular of those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, requires urgent, ambitious, integrated, synergetic, holistic and collective responses from the international community, grounded in human rights, and therefore **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 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

Commented [OHCHR1]: We propose highlighting the negative impacts of these crises on human rights in order to ensure that both the environmental and social aspects of these crises are reflected. Please see, e.g., [UN General Assembly resolution 76/300](#), which recognises in its Preamble that 'the impact of climate change, the unsustainable management and use of natural resources, the pollution of air, land and water, the unsound management of chemicals and waste, the resulting loss of biodiversity and the decline in services provided by ecosystems interfere with the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and that environmental damage has negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of all human rights'

and that

'while the human rights implications of environmental damage are felt by individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by women and girls and those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples, children, older persons and persons with disabilities,'

Commented [OHCHR2]: We propose adding 'ambitious, integrated, synergetic, holistic' in order to adequately respond to the interconnected nature of the global environmental challenges and crises. See, for example, the [Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People issued on the margins of UNFCCC COP28](#), which underscored that 'acting on climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and ocean health in an **ambitious, integrated and synergetic** manner provides mutually reinforcing benefits for increasing resilience and securing sustainable livelihoods, while reducing negative trade-offs' and highlighted that 'In this year of the first Global Stocktake, and on the occasion of convening at COP28 during Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day, we affirm that there is no path to fully achieve the near- and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement or the 2030 goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework without urgently addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation together in a coherent, **synergetic and holistic** manner, in accordance with the best available science.'

Commented [OHCHR3]: We suggest highlighting that the measures to address the environmental crises should be grounded in human rights – in line with, e.g., the preamble of the Paris Agreement, paragraph 7(g) of Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

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, [toxic chemicals avoidance](#) 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, [and negatively impacts human rights, including the rights to water and sanitation](#), 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, [while ensuring social and environmental safeguards, including for Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities](#). 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 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 [social and environmental safeguards, including for Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities](#), 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.
- 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, [including of at-risk communities](#), 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

Commented [OHCHR4]: A chemically safe circular economy begins with the design of products that reduces material input, avoids the use of toxic chemicals and enables reuse, recovery and recycling. Otherwise, circularity can become a phrase to promote recycling without the assurances that it does not further harm human health and the environment and further perpetuates injustice and inequality.

Commented [OHCHR5]: Water scarcity also adversely impacts human rights, including the human right to water and sanitation - we propose reflecting this in the declaration. See, e.g., the Preamble of Human Rights Council resolution 57/13. The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, which recognised that '*while the implications of climate change-related impacts and environmental damage, including worsening water scarcity and water insecurity, for the enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation affect individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in marginalized and vulnerable situations*,'.

Commented [OHCHR6]: The language proposed seeks to ensure that measures relying upon nature-based solutions do not infringe upon human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, of local communities, and of others who most closely depend on nature, and do not cause unintended consequences for ecosystems and biodiversity, in accordance with the [Voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#), Section 2.2.2 Safeguards (page 45), as well as [UNEA resolution 5/5](#), Preamble.

Commented [OHCHR7]: The language proposed seeks to ensure that measures relying upon nature-based solutions do not infringe upon human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, of local communities, and of others who most closely depend on nature, and do not cause unintended consequences for ecosystems and biodiversity, in accordance with the [Voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#), Section 2.2.2 Safeguards (page 45), as well as [UNEA resolution 5/5](#), Preamble.

Commented [OHCHR8]: We propose incorporating language on strengthening preparedness, response and recovery capacities for at-risk communities, to ensure at-risk communities are included in capacity-building efforts on disaster risk reduction, in line with Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

See paras 24(g) and (h) and 27 (a) of the Sendai Framework.

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 can enhance food security.

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, children, youth, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities in the conservation and protection of the environment and ensuring their safe, inclusive and meaningful participation in decision-making processes, access to justice and access to information on environmental matters, to advance sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, whilst respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- R. Call on Member States to deepen cooperation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples to incorporate the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems 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.

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

- S. 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

Commented [OHCHR9]: Proposals made to reflect the language of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and Rio Principle 10, as well as Target 22 and Section C (para 7g) of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by [CBD COP decision 15/4](#), and the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, Part IV., A. and B.

We also propose capitalising the term ‘Indigenous Peoples’ in line with UN General Assembly resolution [77/460, Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and Human Rights Council resolution [57/15, Human rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

Commented [OHCHR10]: We propose capitalising the word ‘Indigenous’, as done in the same sentence as well as the preceding paragraph, and as called for by Human Rights Council resolution 57/15. Human rights and Indigenous Peoples, which in its OP32 calls ‘upon States to apply capitalization to the term “Indigenous Peoples” in official documents and in the official languages of the United Nations’.

Indigenous knowledge is unique to them and should not be conflated with other knowledges. When referring to Indigenous knowledge, it should not be used or shared, but respected and promoted, in accordance with their free, prior and informed consent.

See Paris Agreement, Article 7.5. ‘Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, **traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems**, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.’

See also UNDRIP Article 31.1: ‘Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.’

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. 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.
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