

UNITED KINGDOM

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Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session – FIRST DRAFT - 26 May 2025

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 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. <u>We reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, recognising our commitment to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.</u>	We <u>cannot agree</u> to the removal of references to the Paris Agreement in this Ministerial Declaration. We ask that this paragraph is expanded to also reaffirm our collective commitment to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. In the context of the urgent threat of climate change, we must collectively uphold our climate commitments. We also support the framing of the Declaration in the context of our collective commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <u>We would oppose any removal of this reference.</u>
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 (<u>Nexus Assessment</u>), and the IPBES Thematic assessment on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (<u>Transformative Change Assessment</u>).	We consider it important to welcome the inclusion of references to both the IPBES Thematic Assessment and the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment, which were both adopted at IPBES-11 in December 2024. These reports were approved by 149 IPBES members and were the result of years of work, including multiple reviews, providing key recommendations to tackle the biodiversity crisis and other global challenges. It would be highly irregular to reference one report approved at an IPBES Plenary, and not the other.

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		The Transformative Change Assessment is relevant alongside Nexus because it considers the drivers of nature loss and the options for society to change to sustain a fair and healthy planet. It covers which actions should be taken and how to ensure transformative change is equitable, inclusive and reflective.
6	We recognize that <u>the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, the interconnected nature of the global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, as well as other challenges including</u> desertification, drought and land degradation, pollution , <u>and</u> sand and dust storms, among others, requires urgent and collective responses from the international community, and therefore decide to take the following actions:	We consider it important to retain reference to the triple planetary crisis in this Declaration, as this is the language most commonly used within UNEP and the wider UN system, and the language which most appropriately reflects the severity of the situation we are facing globally.
	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, <u>such as those highlighted in the IPBES Nexus Assessment</u> , and promote cooperation and exchange among governments, international organizations, the scientific community and civil society.	We would welcome inclusion of the IPBES Nexus Assessment as this paragraph concerns the importance of integrated solutions and cooperation across society to advance sustainable development. This is a core principle of the IPBES Nexus Assessment, which recognises these links and supports integrated decision-making that promotes positive outcomes across biodiversity, water, food, health and climate. It does so by setting out 71 response options that will help to advance sustainable and integrated solutions. It would be very beneficial to highlight this valuable assessment for Member States, to help them in their efforts to implement global goals in an integrated manner.
B	Strengthen international and regional cooperation to prevent and reduce <u>and resolve</u> transboundary pollution issues and prioritize the <u>development of advanced monitoring systems to effectively tracking</u> and management <u>of</u> these issues across borders, ensuring utilizing	We consider it important that the emphasis on tracking and management of pollution should be broader than monitoring systems, given the tracking and management of pollution takes place through many existing international frameworks and commitments.

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	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 <u>of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities, and advocate for</u> 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.	We consider it important to bring the language around a 'just transition' in line with its' scope previously agreed under the Paris Agreement. This would ensure that the used term has a shared understanding by all Member States.
E	Recognizing that increasing water <u>-insecurity scarcity, driven by biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and rising food production,</u> 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 <u>and across boundaries</u> , 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 <u>all</u> water-related challenges in a holistic and integrated manner.	We consider it important to make reference to water "insecurity", as we must recognise that it is not just water scarcity (too little water) which poses the risks to SDGs, and people, planet and nature. Too much water, as well as water that is too polluted can be equally damaging to the resilience of ecosystems, communities, and economies. The term water security (or insecurity) is more reflective of the entire hydrological cycle. We also consider it important to highlight the drivers of increasing water insecurity, which are outlined in the IPBES Nexus assessment. The assessment also listed transboundary water cooperation as having particularly positive outcomes for water as well as biodiversity, food, health and climate. This also applied to community water management, which is captured by "at all levels".
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	We would welcome the inclusion of text on the Pandemic Accord to expand this paragraph and note the important role the environment sector will need to play in supporting implementation of the

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	response, <u>- including for the successful implementation of the new Pandemic Agreement which was adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly</u>, and promoting the Quadripartite One Health Alliance to enhance its policy impact, in line with national circumstances and priorities. <u>[Placeholder] We also welcome the launch at UNEA-7 of the Independent Panel for Evidence for Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)]</u>	obligations. Pandemic prevention is a key pillar within the Agreement, and is inextricably linked to the human-animal-environment interface. We would also welcome a placeholder on the launch of the Independent Panel for Evidence for Action Against AMR which we are expecting to happen this year. UNEP have been driving progress on the Independent Panel.
G	<u>Urge Encourage</u> all Member States to pursue ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) <u>aligned with Global Stocktake outcomes, and</u> 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.	We consider it important to assign a higher level of urgency in this paragraph, which we welcomed in paragraph (b) of the zero draft on this issue. We ask that this sentiment is stressed through “urge” rather than “encourage”. In addition, we also consider it important to expand the reference to NDCs to specify that these should be aligned with Global Stocktake outcomes, as this will be essential to keeping 1.5c within reach.
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 <u>disaster risk</u> challenges, recognizing that these challenges are often exacerbated by climate fragility, armed conflicts, migration and displacement issues.	We would welcome the inclusion of “disaster risk” to better define the “specific challenges” faced by countries, in line with the overarching purpose of this subparagraph.

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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.	
	<u>[NEW PARAGRAPH SUGGESTION ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS]</u> <u>Encourage a transition to sustainable food systems and sustainable, healthy diets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing the importance of a multisectoral and integrated approach for addressing biodiversity loss, water availability, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and for achieving global food security, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, thereby accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant multilateral environmental agreements.</u>	We consider it important to include language on sustainable food systems and welcomed the text in the zero draft on this topic. We would like to see reinstated. Unsustainable agricultural practices have resulted in biodiversity loss, unsustainable water usage, increased pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The global food system has a significant impact on the triple planetary crisis. It is responsible for between 21 and 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC, 2019). Agricultural expansion is the most widespread form of land-use change, the greatest driver of biodiversity loss (IPBES, 2019). Currently over one third of the land surface has been used for agriculture. Yet, agriculture is one of the three global industries that is most dependent on nature and a stable climate, reinforcing the importance of the transition to sustainable food systems for addressing these challenges (WEF, 2020; IPCC, 2023).
	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.	

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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.	We cannot agree to making a partial, and therefore incomplete, reference to language from UNEA Resolution 5/14. We therefore ask that this additional text is removed. The language from the relevant decision paragraph reads as follows: “Decides that the intergovernmental negotiating committee is to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,..., which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities”
	[NEW PARAGRAPH ON THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE] <u>We reaffirm the Political Declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action”, adopted at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France and held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, and urge the full and effective implementation of its commitments. In this context, we commit to enhancing and accelerating just and transformative action on marine conservation and restoration, ocean governance, and sustainable fisheries; to fostering sustainable ocean-based economies; and to preventing, significantly reducing, and controlling marine pollution of all kinds, in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</u>	We consider it important to reference the significant outcomes of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, by reaffirming its adopted Political Declaration and urging the full and effective implementation of its commitments. We also consider it important that this Declaration strengthens its references to the ocean and coasts throughout, and therefore ask our proposed text on this subject is included. Action on the ocean and coasts is critical, and we support a focus on the implementation of international agreements pertaining to the ocean and meeting Sustainable Development Goal 14, which is Life Below Water.

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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 <u>interlinked</u> Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework <u>of the UNCBD, the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC</u> , and strive for the achievement of the Land Degradation Neutrality targets of the UNCCD. <u>This implementation should be advanced</u> through effective <u>and integrated</u> policy responses, <u>governance</u> , and financial resources <u>across sectors and scales</u> to halt and reverse biodiversity loss; address <u>ecosystem loss</u> ; address climate change ; <u>address</u> land degradation and drought through land restoration, land protection and conservation; <u>and</u> maintain ecosystem services and develop sustainable food and agricultural production systems to that can enhance food security <u>and climate resilience</u> .	We cannot accept reference to only two out of the three Rio Conventions. Although we welcome this paragraph's focus on the implementation of the targets under the Rio Conventions, we ask that reference is also made to the UNFCCC, as the targets of each Rio Convention are interlinked and cannot be achieved without the other. We also ask that the origins of the targets are listed, by naming the UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD. We would welcome inclusion of reference to the halting and reversing of ecosystem loss. This reference can be combined with biodiversity loss to read "halt and reverse biodiversity and ecosystem loss". We would also additional actions relevant to improving coherence in the implementation of global frameworks. The issues addressed by the Rio Conventions are significantly interlinked and therefore need to be addressed in an integrated way across sectors and scales.
	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 <u>all countries, in particular</u> developing countries to enable them to advance sustainable solutions to tackle the global interconnected environmental challenges and crises through adequate financing <u>from</u>	We cannot agree to this paragraph without language on technology transfer being qualified as "voluntary" and on "mutually-agreed terms". To ensure the protection of intellectual property rights, all technology transfer in support of environmental challenges should take place on mutually

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	<u>all sources</u>, capacity-building, and <u>voluntary</u> technology transfer <u>on mutually agreed terms</u>.	agreed terms. Capacities are often mutually strengthened through cooperation and knowledge exchange. We consider it important to reflect in the text that the means of implementation are important to all countries, whilst also drawing attention to the particular needs of developing countries. We consider it important to align this language on financing with Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which states that sustainable finance should be considered from all sources (public, private, international and domestic).
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, <u>and others, including</u> relevant stakeholders, international financial institutions, global funds and financial mechanisms, multilateral development banks and private <u>-institutionsfoundations</u>.	We would welcome the insertion of “and others, including” to reflect that the following list of stakeholders and institutions is not exhaustive. We would also welcome the use of “institutions”, as a preferable substitute for “foundations” as this is a more widely-used term.
	[NEW PARAGRAPH SUGGESTION FOR NATURE FINANCE] <u>Increase finance for nature to close the biodiversity funding gap and halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, by identifying and addressing harmful subsidies and mobilising at least \$200bn annually from all sources in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, recognising that efforts are required by all parts of the system - public, private and multilateral - to align finance with climate and nature goals.</u>	We consider it important to include a new paragraph acknowledging the need for more finance for nature and covering the entire biodiversity funding gap. It has never been clearer that for full implementation of global environment goals, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, more finance is needed from all sources. We must also address financial flows that are harmful to the environment, particularly incentives and subsidies, and better align our economies towards nature.
Q	Invite Member States to promote gender equality and enhance the <u>influence and</u> engagement of women, girls, youth, <u>persons with disabilities</u>, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities in the conservation and protection of the environment and ensuring their inclusive, <u>and</u>-meaningful <u>and safe engagement and influence</u>	We would welcome the addition of “engagement” alongside “influence”, as the groups listed often play a significant role in the conservation and protection of the environment, but do not always have the associated influence. Including reference to “influence” recognises the importance of each group in making and leading decisions. We would also welcome an

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	participation in decision-making processes to advance sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, whilst recognising protecting and promoting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, <u>in line with UNGA resolution 76/300.</u>	explicit reference to their “safe” participation in decision-making processes. We consider it important to accurately reflect the context in which the “right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment” was adopted (i.e. by way of UNGA resolution 76/300, which in its first paragraph “<i>Recognises</i> the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”). There is currently no internationally agreed legal basis of the right to a healthy environment, nor is there international agreement on either the definition of the right or its scope and context. We therefore ask that the reference should be made specifically in relation to UNGA resolution 76/300 and that “recognising” be used in place of “protecting and promoting.”
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 <u>and gender-responsive</u> approaches that empower all segments of society and contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, leaving making sure no one is left behind.	We consider it important to include “gender-responsive” alongside “culturally sensitive”, in recognition of intersecting inequalities.
	Action 4: We will promote effective and coherent global environmental governance that adheres to the <u>environmental rule of law</u> rules of international law.	We consider it important to substitute “rules of international law” for the phrase “environmental rule of law”, as this preferred term is the recognised language regularly used by the UN Environment Programme. We would welcome the merging of Action 4 with Action 2 to cover environmental governance more widely. This aligns with the amendments we have suggested on paras S and T.
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 resolution 6/4 on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national	We would welcome the deletion of this paragraph as we believe that this Declaration should not urge the implementation of any specific UNEA resolution, as the Assembly has passed all with equal value.

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	implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments, with clearly articulated roles and responsibilities, is essential. 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.	We would welcome the deletion of this paragraph as we believe that this Declaration should not urge the implementation of any specific UNEA resolution, as the Assembly has passed all with equal value.