



United Nations

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**First special session: commemoration of
the fiftieth anniversary of the
establishment of the United Nations
Environment Programme
(Nairobi, 3 and 4 March 2022)**

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ADVANCE

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Chapter I

Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The first special session for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi on 3 and 4 March 2022.
2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Thursday, 3 March 2022, by Ms. Leila Benali, President of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
3. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Benali; Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, via video message; Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, via video message; Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council; and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.¹

¹ A fuller account of the discussions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first special session, including summaries of the opening and general statements and of the Assembly's deliberations on the substantive issues before it, is contained in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.SS.1/3).

Chapter II

Organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Attendance

4. The following Member States were represented at the first special session: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. The following non-Member States were represented: Cook Islands, Holy See and State of Palestine.

6. The following United Nations bodies, conventions and related secretariats were represented: Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Department of Political Affairs; Department of Safety and Security; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Economic Commission for Europe; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Executive Office of the Secretary-General; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; International Labour Organization; Office of the High Representatives for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; Ozone secretariat; secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds; secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats; secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention); secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat; secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; United Nations Office at Geneva; United Nations Office at Nairobi; United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; United Nations

Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations System Staff College; United Nations University; United Nations Volunteers.

7. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Civil Aviation Organization; International Fund for Agricultural Development; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; International Criminal Court; International Organization for Migration; International Seabed Authority; International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization; World Trade Organization.

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Africa Institute; Commission for Environment Cooperation; East African Community; European Investment Bank; European Union; Global Environment Facility; Green Climate Fund; International Centre for Research in Agroforestry; International Chamber of Commerce; International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea; International Maritime Organization; International Union for Conservation of Nature; Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; League of Arab States; Nordic Development Fund; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme; Union for the Mediterranean; World Organization for Animal Health.

9. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers.

B. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

10. At the 4th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 4 March 2022, the Chair reported that the Bureau had received and examined the credentials of Member States submitted in accordance with rules 16 and 17 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly. As of 2 March 2022, 40 Member States had submitted formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in physical form to the Executive Director of UNEP. As of 1 March 2022, 114 Member States had submitted information concerning the appointment of their representative to the Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of UNEP by means of a scanned copy in electronic form of formal credentials signed by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a scanned copy of a letter or note verbale from the Permanent Mission concerned or by means of another form of official communication. A total of 39 Member States had not communicated any information regarding their representatives to the Executive Director.

11. With regard to Myanmar, the Committee had decided, in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the same matter, to defer any action on the credentials of the representatives pending further guidance from the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly.

12. The Bureau recommended that the Environment Assembly accept the credentials of the Member States.

13. The Environment Assembly took note of the report of the Bureau on credentials.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 2)

1. Adoption of the agenda

14. The Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.SS.1/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Statements by representatives.

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5. Presentation of the report of the Executive Director on the science-policy interface.
 6. Presentation of the stakeholder report entitled “The UNEP We Want”.
 7. Leadership dialogues:
 - (a) Looking back: 50 years of UNEP;
 - (b) Looking forward: achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for people and planet.
 8. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.
 9. Adoption of the political outcome of the session.
 10. Adoption of the report of the session and the Chair’s summary.
 11. Closure of the session.

2. Organization of work

15. Based on the organization of work as presented in the annotated agenda (UNEP/EA.SS.1/1/Add.1), the Environment Assembly agreed to the organization of work proposed by the President, including consideration of item 5, presentation of the report of the Executive Director on the science-policy interface, and item 6, presentation of the stakeholder report entitled “The UNEP We Want”, during the second plenary meeting, to be held in the afternoon of 3 March 2022. The final structure of the first special session is set out in annex III to the proceedings of the session.

16. The Environment Assembly further agreed that the time limit for statements in explanation of a position before action and after action on a proposal be limited to three minutes. The Assembly agreed that delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings had been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings were devoted to the consideration of the same item or at the end of the consideration of an item, with the number of interventions in the exercise of that right limited to two per item for any delegation at a given meeting, the first such intervention being limited to three minutes and the second to two minutes.

D. Statements by representatives (agenda item 4)

17. Ministers and other high-level representatives of countries, and representatives of United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations, as well as representatives of regional and political groups delivered statements during the 1st to 4th plenary meetings of the first special session.

Chapter III

Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

18. The present report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, presents an opportunity to further integrate the outcomes of the first special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly into the work and discussions of the two bodies. The General Assembly is expected to consider the report of the first special session of the Environment Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. In that context, Member States may wish:

(a) To take note of the present report and of the political declaration of the Environment Assembly at its first special session entitled “Political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme”;

(b) To affirm the indispensable role of the Environment Assembly within the United Nations system as the intergovernmental decision-making body with universal membership, while respecting the independence and respective mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements, for enhancing progress in the comprehensive implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the United Nations system, providing overarching policy guidance, and strengthening international environmental governance and the implementation of the global environmental agenda in line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, The future we want;

(c) To reaffirm the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, and support continuous strengthening of intergovernmental oversight and the accountability of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Programme’s mandate in line with Governing Council decision 27/2;

(d) To decide to support the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional presence, underline the importance of universal membership in its governing body to the United Nations Environment Programme, and invite all Member States and members of specialized agencies that have not yet done so to become accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in that regard, take note with interest of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 76/246 and underline the need to continue improving the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as the only United Nations headquarters duty station in the global South and the host of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, and, furthermore, invite the United Nations Office at Nairobi to provide more competitive services while inviting the governing bodies of all the multilateral environmental agreements, in particular those hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, to consider convening, within their mandates, their meetings more frequently in Nairobi;

(e) To consider, as appropriate, the level of regular budget funding required to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its mandate, taking into account the Programme’s approved programme of work and General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).

Chapter IV

Presentation of the report of the Executive Director on the science-policy interface (agenda item 5)

19. The Executive Director presented her report entitled “Reflecting on the past and imagining the future: a contribution to the dialogue on the science-policy interface,” which was set out in the annex to the note by secretariat on progress in the implementation of resolution 4/23 on enhancing the science-policy interface of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/EA.SS.1/2).

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Chapter V

Presentation of the stakeholder report entitled “The UNEP We Want” (agenda item 6)

20. Ms. Yugratna Srivastava, co-facilitator of the children and youth major group, provided an overview of the methodology used to produce the report entitled “The UNEP We Want”. Mr. Stephen Stec, co-facilitator of the scientific and technological community major group, provided an overview of the outcomes of the report.

Chapter VI

Leadership dialogues (agenda item 7)

A. Looking back: 50 years of UNEP

21. Ms. Maria Ivanova, professor of global governance, moderator of the leadership dialogue on “Looking Back: 50 years of UNEP”, presented the key messages and conclusions of the dialogue, which had been held on the morning of Friday, 4 March 2022. A summary of the key messages and conclusions of the dialogue is set out in annex I to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.SS.1/3).

B. Looking forward: achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for people and planet

22. Ms. Femi Oke, international journalist and broadcaster, moderator of the leadership dialogue on “Looking forward: Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for people and planet”, presented the key messages and conclusions of the dialogue, which had been held on the morning of Friday, 4 March 2022. A summary of the key messages and conclusions of the dialogue is set out in annex I to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.SS.1/3).

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Chapter VII

Multi-stakeholder dialogue (agenda item 8)

23. Mr. Joe Ageyo, journalist from Citizen TV Kenya, moderator of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, presented a summary of the key messages and conclusions of the dialogue, which had been held in the afternoon of Friday, 4 March 2022. A summary of the key messages and conclusions of the dialogue is set out in the annex I to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.SS.1/3).

Chapter VIII

Adoption of the political outcome of the session (agenda item 9)

24. At the opening plenary meeting of the special session, the President recalled that the Environment Assembly, in its decision 5/3, had decided that it would finalize, at the resumed meeting of its fifth session, implementation of the mandate entrusted to it by General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30 August 2019 to prepare a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting and invited the General Assembly to consider the appropriate event for the adoption of such a declaration, including the option of adopting it as one of the outcomes of the special session. At its resumed fifth session, the Assembly had endorsed the draft political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme and recommended it for adoption at the special session.

25. The Environment Assembly adopted, by consensus, the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme. The political declaration is set out in annex I to the present report.

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Chapter IX

Adoption of the report of the session and the Chair's summary (agenda item 10)

26. At the 4th plenary meeting, the President presented the Chair's summary of the special session. The Chair's summary is set out in annex II to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.SS.1/3).

27. Also at the 4th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted the proceedings on the basis of the draft proceedings that had been circulated, on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

Chapter X

Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

28. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the first special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was declared closed at 6 p.m. on Friday, 5 March 2022.

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Political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme

We, Heads of State and Government, ministers and high-level representatives, having gathered, together with the representatives of international organizations and other stakeholders, at the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly entitled “UNEP@50: Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting the special session – a historic milestone for the global community and the United Nations Environment Programme – to reflect on achievements and lessons learned and envisage future ambitions and actions to support the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development,

Acknowledging with appreciation the 50-year contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme in supporting a worldwide effort to overcome the planet’s biggest environmental challenges,

Recognizing that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights, taking note of Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”, and noting that the General Assembly has been invited to consider the matter,

Recalling the Stockholm Declaration and the Stockholm Plan of Action for the Human Environment, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Rio+20 Declaration entitled “The future we want” and in particular paragraph 88 thereof, General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development”, General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30 August 2019 entitled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277” and General Assembly resolution 76/208 of 17 December 2021 entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”, as well as the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields,

Recognizing the urgent need and our common objectives to reinforce and advance the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the environment for present and future generations, as it is crucial to urgently reverse the current trends of environmental decline, which are impeding progress towards sustainable development, while recognizing differing national circumstances,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and promoting sustainable ones, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development, while stressing that poverty eradication remains the greatest challenge facing the world today,

Recognizing the importance of fostering environmental rule of law and effective international environmental governance through multilateral processes, and conscious of ongoing initiatives to promote coordinated approaches and complementary actions for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and land degradation, as well as pollution and unsound management of chemicals and waste,

Recognizing also the crucial importance of effective domestic legal frameworks and governance structures for promoting compliance with obligations under international environmental

law, and of the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation in this regard,

1. *Reaffirm* all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and, recognizing that we face different challenges, we will strengthen our *international* cooperation towards the environmental dimension of sustainable development;

2. *Support* the strengthening of international environmental governance in the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development, and promote enhanced coordination within the United Nations system for balanced integration of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development;

3. *Commit ourselves* to mainstreaming, in a balanced manner, the environmental dimension of sustainable development into national policies, strategies and planning, including but not limited to supporting building of the capacity of relevant authorities, taking into account national circumstances, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Call* for renewed efforts at all levels to enhance implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law, and to keep the ambition regarding environmental protection and means of implementation, including through global partnerships and enabling a sustainable future for our planet and addressing urgent social, economic and environmental challenges, also considering the backdrop of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its disproportionate impact on the poorest and people in vulnerable situations by ensuring an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable recovery, including by building back better and greener;

5. *Affirm* the indispensable role of the United Nations Environment Assembly within the United Nations system as the intergovernmental decision-making body with universal membership, while respecting the independence and respective mandates of multilateral environmental agreements, for enhancing progress in the comprehensive implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the United Nations system, providing overarching policy guidance, and strengthening international environmental governance and implementation of the global environmental agenda in line with the document “The Future We Want”;

6. *Reaffirm* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, and support continuous strengthening of intergovernmental oversight and the accountability of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Programme’s mandate in line with Governing Council decision 27/2;

7. *Renew* our support for strengthening the collaboration and cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations Environment Programme while respecting their independence and respective mandates, with a view to achieving progressive improvement in the state of the global environment, as well as in the provision of the means of implementation, and, to that end, invite the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence and its effective implementation;

8. *Support* the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional presence, underline the importance of universal membership to the United Nations Environment Programme, and invite all Member States and members of specialized agencies that have not yet done so to become accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in that regard, take note with interest of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 76/246 and underline the need to continue improving the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as the only United Nations headquarters duty station in the global South and the host of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, and, furthermore, invite the United Nations Office at Nairobi to provide more competitive services while inviting the governing bodies of all the multilateral environmental agreements, in particular those hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, to consider convening, within their mandates, their meetings more frequently in Nairobi;

9. *Stress* the importance of advancing equitable geographic distribution and gender parity among the staff of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, particularly with regard to Professional and senior-level positions, and request the Executive Director of the Programme to continue ongoing efforts and take effective action in this regard and continue to report regularly to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on progress achieved;

10. *Invite* the General Assembly to *consider*, as appropriate, the level of regular-budget funding required to help the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its mandate, taking into account the Programme's approved work programme and General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);

11. *Reaffirm* that all Member States and members of specialized agencies, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, should contribute financially to the United Nations Environment Programme; in this regard, urge Member States and others in a position to do so to support the United Nations Environment Programme through more stable, adequate and predictable core contributions to the Environment Fund, with due consideration for the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, and stress the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to manage its financial resources prudently and diversify its donor base by encouraging Member States that do not regularly contribute to the Environment Fund to do so;

12. *Encourage* the United Nations Environment Programme, as chair of the Environment Management Group, in collaboration with the other members of the Group, to continue to strengthen system-wide inter-agency coordination on the environment and to call for active involvement and support from all members of the Group in the implementation of system-wide strategies on the environment;

13. *Support* the key role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting and strengthening the science-policy interface in order to support *intergovernmental* debate, negotiations and deliberations, and policy decisions relating to international environmental law and governance, promote the identification and sharing of the best available science to support effective environmental action and policymaking, and in cooperation and collaboration between the relevant scientific panels and to encourage geographical and gender balance in the membership of such panels, and commit ourselves to investing further in environmental research, including in assessments by the United Nations Environment Programme, and making more effective use of knowledge generated by the scientific community;

14. *Recognize* the importance of access to information, access to public participation in decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters, and invite Member States and members of specialized agencies to disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information and raise public awareness regarding critical, persistent and emerging environmental issues and continue to support the United Nations Environment Programme in developing a global environmental data strategy;

15. *Resolve* to continuously strengthen, where needed, environmental laws, policies and regulatory frameworks at the national, regional and global levels, without reducing the existing levels of environmental protection, and to strengthen capacity across all sectors for the effective implementation of international environmental law by closing knowledge gaps, enhancing cross-sectoral coordination, improving monitoring and law enforcement, increasing political will and engaging stakeholders, in accordance with *national* legal systems, while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation in supporting and complementing national action;

16. *Invite* Member States and members of specialized agencies to increase their support to the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V), and to promote the development and *implementation* of environmental rule of law and welcome the ongoing discussions on this matter while strengthening the capacity of Member States and members of specialized agencies, upon their request;

17. *Encourage* Member States and members of specialized agencies that have not yet done so to consider ratifying relevant multilateral environmental agreements and to effectively implement them, including through the *incorporation* of their provisions into national legal systems as appropriate;

18. *Invite* Member States and members of specialized agencies to address relevant principles of international environmental law in their domestic legal *systems*, as appropriate, noting, in this context, the ongoing work by the International Law Commission on general principles of law;

19. *Commit ourselves* to cooperating to strengthen capacity across all sectors for the effective implementation of international environmental law, including in the administrative and justice sectors, in accordance with domestic legal systems, while acknowledging the importance of *international* cooperation and support in this regard;

20. *Call upon* Member States and members of specialized agencies to enhance the provision and mobilization of all types and sources of means of implementation, including capacity-building, technology and financial support, and to promote global partnerships and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to support developing countries in the *implementation* of national environmental policies in the areas in which they require it, and complementing their national efforts, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

21. *Call* for the urgent fulfilment of existing financial commitments under various multilateral environmental agreements to assist developing countries, and stress the importance of fulfilling relevant pledges;

22. *Commit ourselves* to further amplifying the mobilization of domestic financial resources, including through enhanced collaboration with the private sector, to advance the holistic and balanced implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, taking into consideration the need of developing countries for enhanced international cooperation and *support* to complement their efforts to mobilize domestic resources;

23. *Invite* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to identify further options, in line with the Programme's medium-term strategy and programme of work, for providing assistance to Member States and members of specialized agencies upon their request, including through United Nations country teams, to improve implementation of their environmental objectives, international environmental law and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level, including access to scientific information, technologies, technical assistance and financial resources, while ensuring complementarity with the work of treaty bodies;

24. *Call on* the United Nations, within its mandate, to facilitate effective and efficient use of and adequate and timely access to existing financial instruments, including to support access by Member States and members of specialized agencies to capacity-building and technology, with a special focus on the needs of developing countries, and call on Member States and members of specialized agencies to make effective and efficient use of existing financial mechanisms and funds for the purpose of implementing international environmental law and improving the status of the global environment in promoting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

25. *Encourage* the active and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities and strengthen the ability of major groups and stakeholders to participate in meetings and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in line with applicable rules and procedures in a geographically and gender-balanced manner, and commit ourselves to continuing to explore new ways of promoting transparency and the effective engagement of civil society, including via digital means;

26. *Take note* of the report "The UNEP We Want" prepared by major groups and stakeholders, which provides proposals towards a more inclusive and impactful United Nations Environment Programme.