

Name of Member State / Organization	World Federation For Animals(WFA)
Date	30th June 2025

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 notably the strong co-benefits derived from integrated and cross-sectoral approaches such as One Health, which are essential to tackle the complex interlinkages between biodiversity, land use, water, energy, animal and human health, and food security.
4. {Placeholder} Seventh Edition of Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.
5. We welcome the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (IPBES) Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food security, Climate, plant, human and animal Health, infectious disease emergence and antimicrobial resistance, and the value of taking a One Health approach to addressing these issues.

Rationale: considering the role of UNEP within the Quadripartite and presented by IPBES and others, there are clear links between the health of the shared environment, food systems and human beings.

6..NEW(We welcome the adoption of the WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, during the seventy-eighth World Health Assembly)

Rationale: Pandemic prevention, which is a key pillar within the Accord, is inextricably linked to the human-animal-environment interface. The draft Ministerial Declaration should welcome the Pandemic Accord and note UNEP's role in supporting implementation of the obligations, as part of the Quadripartite One Health Alliance.

6 bis. NEW: We welcome the adoption of the Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance during the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Rationale: Environmental contamination from antimicrobial residues in water, soil, and waste systems is a critical driver of resistance. This affirms UNEA's commitment to cross-sectoral global governance and reinforces alignment with the highest-level political processes on AMR and reflect this shared responsibility and UNEP's clear role within the Quadripartite

6. We recognize that the interconnected nature of the global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, **crimes that affect the environment**, desertification, drought and land degradation, pollution, sand and dust storms among others requires urgent and collective responses from the international community, and therefore **decide to take the following actions:**

Action 1: We will take bold actions that drive **ecologically 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 **ecologically** 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 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 **and humane** 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 **ecological** sustainability, **in order to** reduce environmental impact for a resilient planet.

Rationale for striking out incentives: to ensure the integrity of sustainability commitments. While incentives can be useful policy tools, their inclusion here risks legitimizing subsidies or market mechanisms that are not aligned with ecological goals.

- D. Champion a just transition towards a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by **promoting sustainable and resilient food systems inline with right to safe and nutritious food**, 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.

Rationale: This addition recognizes that food systems are major drivers of environmental change—from land degradation to water pollution and biodiversity loss. Yet they are also central to livelihoods and human well-being and SDG 2

- 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 [including combating the unsustainable exploitation of working animals in line with the African Union’s 2024 moratorium](#). 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.

Rationale: in February 2024 the African Union unanimously adopted a [moratorium](#) that bans the slaughter of donkeys for their skins across the continent due to its effect on livelihoods, the environment and disease transmission. Such practices pose risks to biodiversity, contribute to soil and water pollution from unregulated slaughter, facilitate the cross-border spread of animal diseases, and undermine the livelihoods of vulnerable rural communities that depend on working animals for transport, food security, and resilience. [Here](#)

In June 2025 AU-IBAR and AU member states reiterated that [commitment](#) at the 2nd Pan Africa Donkey conference in Abidjan and affirmed their commitment to implement a Pan African Donkey Strategy.

- F. Advance the implementation of the One Health approach at all levels [fostering collaboration among human, animal and environmental health sectors](#), , whilst enhancing the science, knowledge and evidence amongst countries and stakeholders, for a coordinated and cross-sectoral response to:
- (i) address drivers of zoonotic disease emergence, with a focus on prevention at source,
 - (ii) Implement the commitments of the Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance agreed at the seventy-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly,
- [While strengthening the policy impact of promoting the Quadripartite One Health Alliance in line with national circumstances and priorities.](#)

Rationale: this shows the role of UNEP in the continued commitment by the Quadripartite to the implementation of the Pandemic Treaty and commitments made at the UNGA 79 through the AMR Political Declaration respectively.

- 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.

[NEW] H. Acknowledge the interrelationship between the health of ecosystems and their ability to sequester carbon, and the presence of robust populations of wild animals, and recognise the importance of protecting wild animals from overexploitation, including through legal trade and illicit wildlife trafficking. Further, we acknowledge the significant carbon benefits of responsible rewilding and its potential contribution to a sustainable future for all.

Rationale: A holistic approach to advancing sustainable solutions entails linking the climate, biodiversity and health agendas, as further highlighted in the IPBES report quoted previously (point 5). In addition, it is crucial to recognise wild animals as essential allies in climate action, emphasising their role as facilitators of natural carbon sequestration, ecosystem and climate health and resilience. Animal populations are integral to key ecosystem functions, such as pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling, that are essential for biodiversity conservation and restoration, food security, and climate resilience.

- 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 [in line with UNGA resolution 79/205](#), [recognise the role of working animals in building disaster risk resilience at community level](#).
- 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 [of the 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.

- J. Acknowledging the role of science, technology, and innovation and evidence-based approaches in advancing the SDGs. We commit to strengthening the integration of scientific knowledge and evidence into policymaking and promoting equitable access to modern tools and new approach methodologies.

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

- K. 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.
- L. {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.
- M. {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.
- N. 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.
- O. 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 **by 2030, including by taking urgent actions to:**
(NEW) a. Address ecosystem, land degradation and drought through land restoration, land protection and the conservation of at least 30% of land, freshwater, and oceans by 2030;

(NEW)b. Tackle species extinction and population decline by enhancing wildlife protection and strengthening efforts to prevent and combat the trafficking of wild animals and plants, and their unsustainable use and exploitation;

(NEW)c. Maintain ecosystem services and recognise the role of wild animals as facilitators of natural carbon sequestration, ecosystem and climate health and resilience;

(NEW)d. Develop sustainable food and agricultural production systems that can enhance food security.

Rationale: It is important to remind the global community of the fast-approaching 2030 deadline to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, set at CBD COP15 under the KMGBF, and to list the key urgent and transformative actions necessary to reach this mission, including conserving at least 30% of land, freshwater, and oceans by 2030, preventing species extinction and population decline, reducing animal exploitation, acknowledging the contributions of wild animals to climate action, and transforming food systems.

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.

- P. Ensure adequate and predictable means of implementation for developing countries to enable them to advance **ecologically** sustainable solutions to tackle the global interconnected environmental challenges and crises through adequate financing, capacity-building, and technology transfer.
- Q. 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.
- R. Invite Member States to promote gender equality and enhance the engagement of women, girls, youth, civil society, 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 **ecologically** sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, whilst protecting and promoting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- S. 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.

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

- 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.
 - 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.
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