

Draft Ministerial Declaration of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)

Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet

As ministers of the environment of the world we recognize that biodiversity is fundamental to human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people, to achieve a sustainable solution for a resilient planet, including for living well in balance and in harmony with Mother Earth. We depend on it for food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, security from natural disasters as well as recreation and cultural inspiration, and it supports all systems of life on Earth.

We reaffirm the paragraph 59 of the outcome document “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which Heads of State and Government recognized that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and noting also the recognition of the International Day of Mother Earth.

We acknowledge that to achieve living in harmony with Nature and Mother Earth transformative change is urgent, necessary and challenging but possible, and for achieving a just and sustainable world there is the need to shift views, structures and practices in ways that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline. At the same time, it remains important to recognise and strengthen views, structures and practices that are aligned with generating a just and sustainable world, such as those of many Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

We recognize that in the context to advance a sustainable solution for a resilient planet, the Living-well is one of the pathways to achieve a just and sustainable future based on bio/ecocentric and cosmocentric worldviews, values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to live in harmony with and as part of nature and Mother Earth.

We recognize also that Nature embodies different concepts for different people, such as biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth, including human well-being, living in harmony with nature, and living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. In the context of different value systems The Framework the rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth, are an integral part for achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

We recognize that the life horizon of the Living Well that stem from ancient and millenary societies of the world, a wisdom protected by Indigenous Peoples of the world, in which there is the seek for balance, harmony and complementarity among all living beings in the totality of Mother Earth, seeking the collective good where human beings and other living beings are an integral part of Nature. Noting also that in this horizon of life the Mother Earth is conceived as a sacred person generator of life.

Recognizes also that bio/ecocentric and cosmocentric worldviews and values, the Rights of Mother Earth, rights of Nature, non-market-based approaches and the strengthening of instruments of collective action of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, are an integral part for achieving

the life horizon of the Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth to address a sustainable solution for a resilient planet.

Recognizing different value systems and ecocentric and biocentric worldviews and values in the context of the Living-Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth

We recognize that many ancient civilizations, Indigenous Peoples have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and Mother Earth that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

We reaffirm the decision 1/10 of UNEA (2014) “Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” which notes the Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth, and invites countries that wish to do so to implement this approach in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, according to their national circumstances and priorities.

We reaffirm the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) conceptual framework which highlights the "Living Well in Harmony with Mother Earth" as one of the approaches to achieve a good quality of life, as well as the concept of Mother Earth and life systems, as an intrinsic part of other knowledge systems, in particular related those of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

We note that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework recognized that in the world there are different value systems that embodies different concepts of nature for different people, including Mother Earth, and recognizes and considers these diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth, as being an integral part of its successful implementation.

We are aware of the conclusions of the IPBES transformational change assessment to revitalize and support worldviews, values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities presenting opportunities to move from anthropocentric relations of domination towards ecocentric relations of care for all.

We welcome with appreciation the requests of the Secretary General of the United Nations (report A/75/266 of Harmony with Nature (2020) that the General Assembly should consider the possibility of convening in the role of an Earth Assembly, in which the evolving non-anthropocentric or Earth-centred paradigm continues to unfold and finds a home in multilateralism.

We stress the need to facilitate the transition from anthropocentric relations of domination to cosmobiocentric relations of care, including through the strengthening of international and regional dialogues to integrate the worldviews and values of Living-Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth that stem from diverse Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the work of the different environmental Conventions and of the United Nations Environment Programme. We call on UNEP to develop an international platform on the worldviews, principles, and codes of living articulated to the Living-well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth.

We welcome the formulation of the Second global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in particular the inclusion of the second chapter of The Second Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular the chapter two on “Different knowledge systems and the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities”.

We reaffirm the need to promote a transformational change toward a just and sustainable world by requesting to the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene in the role as a Mother Earth Assembly.

Recognizing the importance of the rights of Mother Earth and the rights of Nature to protect Nature

We note the establishment of the program Harmony with Nature and the Interactive Dialogues of Harmony with Nature by the United Nations General Assembly (2010), requesting the Secretary-General to issue Reports on Harmony with Nature, and take into account that several dialogues have taken place to date, in different disciplines, including inter alia the Rights of Nature or Mother Earth Law, Ecological Economics, Education, Holistic Science, highlighting the need to leave behind the anthropocentric paradigm and make way for an Earth-centered paradigm.

Note that the website of Harmony with Nature collects all the work that has been done since 2009 on Mother Earth jurisprudence, noting that to date 37 countries legislate the Rights of Mother Earth and there are more than 300 legal texts on the subject adopted worldwide either in the form of local regulations, local laws, national laws, or judgments of national courts.

We welcome the increased interest that the topic of Living Well and Earth Jurisprudence has generated over the years is evidenced in a large number of publications, projects, university chairs, seminars, and national and international conferences on the Rights of Mother Earth and Living Well in harmony with Mother Earth.

We note that the European Committee on Economic and Social Affairs of the European Union commissioned several experts from the Harmony with Nature network to conduct the Study entitled "Towards the Recognition of a European Charter on the Fundamental Rights of Nature" published in 2020.

We welcome the UNEP reflections on Environmental Rule of Law including the global recognition of the right to a healthy environment, integrating of various rights and emerging topics such as rights of Nature and rights of future generations.

We recognize that the IPBES transformational change assessment states that a transformative biocultural conservation approach with actions to conserve, restore and regenerate places of value to nature and people, require to put in place new legal protections for peoples and places through rights-based approaches, respecting the rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth.

We call on UNEP to develop a global outlook in the progress of the recognition and implementation of the Rights of Mother Earth and Rights of Nature at all levels worldwide.

We emphasize in the need to initiate a work under the United Nations Environmental Assembly for the approval of the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth and Rights of Nature. We request to the President of UNEA to transmit this to the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Enhancing the implementation of Mother Earth Centric Actions

We note that the goal 19 f) of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework highlights the important role of Mother Earth-centric actions, as the social, economic, and environmental actions focused on protecting the integrity of Mother Earth, defined as ecocentric and rights-based approach that enables actions aimed at harmonious and complementary relationships between peoples and Nature, and that promotes the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensures the non-commercialization of the environmental functions of Mother Earth".

Further we note that the IPBES Nature Futures Framework, incorporates the need to develop Mother Earth-centric scenarios and models, in the context of bioecocentric worldviews, rights-based approaches and non-market approaches, including:

- a) Developing and implementing policy instruments for conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of biodiversity that are based on these actions and approaches;
- b) Integrating these actions and approaches into measures and frameworks to promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production and consumption.
- c) Development of educational process related to the living well in harmony with Mother Earth.
- d) Strengthening the recognition and implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- e) Enhancing different value systems, including for living well in balance and harmony with Mother-Earth;
- f) Enhancing the rights of nature and the rights of Mother-Earth.

We request to the UNEP to initiate the development and establishment of an international mechanism of Mother Earth Centric Actions to facilitate the transition in the world to new behaviours and supportive policies of relations of care to live in harmony with and as part of nature and Mother Earth, and to report back to the next UNEA session.

We recognize the importance to facilitate and enhance the mobilization of financial resources to support Mother Earth Centric Actions at different levels in all regions of the world, as agreed in decisions at the Convention of Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We call upon multilateral development banks and financial entities, international cooperation, philanthropies and other donors, to allocate grants and concessional finance to support Mother Earth-centric actions to address issues of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.