

UNITED KINGDOM SUBMITTED: TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2025

Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session - ZERO DRAFT – 28 March 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 welcome the Global Youth Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in December 2025 and its role in fostering active participation <u>of</u> young people in multilateral environmental governance.	
3	We welcome the <u>publication of the Global Environmental Outlook 2025, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health (Nexus Assessment), and the IPBES thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (Transformative Change Assessment).</u>	We would strongly welcome the inclusion of references to the IPBES Thematic Assessment and the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment, which were both adopted at IPBES-11 in December 2024. These outcomes are the result of years of work, including multiple expert and government reviews, providing key recommendations to tackle the biodiversity crisis and other global environmental challenges. We have added the full names of the assessments, but "IPBES Nexus Assessment and IPBES Transformative Change Assessment" could be used for brevity.
4	We decide, <u>to advance sustainable solutions for a resilient planet</u> , to take the following actions, <u>guided by the best available science</u> :	We can strengthen this chapeau by incorporating the theme of UNEA-7 as well referencing "guided by the best available science". We recognise this draft Ministerial Declaration will evolve through the consultation process. As it does so, it is important to ensure the opening <i>and</i> the content of each subparagraph that follows is consistent and logical with this chapeau ("We [Ministers for the environment] decide...to take the following actions...").
(a)	Strengthen international cooperation to mitigate transboundary pollution issues, <u>and</u> prioritize the <u>effective tracking and management of</u> these issues across borders, ensuring a science-driven approach to pollution control and environmental resilience, <u>[Query: emphasizing on the effects of conflicts]</u> .	We suggest 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. We would welcome clarification from the Presidency on what is meant by "emphasizing on the effects of conflict" in relation to transboundary pollution.

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(b)	Stress the implementation of unprecedented emission reductions: Member States must commit to <u>reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2030, phase out fossil fuels, and drastically scale up renewable energy, and we urge Member States to submit ambitious, economy-wide and 1.5C-aligned 2035 Nationally Determined Contributions to keep 1.5C within reach.</u> Stronger international cooperation and support, including through enhanced climate finance <u>from all sources</u> , will be essential to deliver on the Paris Agreement.	We welcome the urgency captured by this paragraph. We would like reference to the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement (1.5C) and to urge Member States to submit 2035 NDCs to underline our collective commitment to managing temperature rises. We would recommend referencing the New Collective Quantified Goal, agreed at COP29, when referencing the need for enhanced climate finance from all sources.
(c)	Recognizing the interconnectedness of <u>the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as other crises such as</u> desertification, <u>we</u> emphasize the need for integrated and coordinated approaches to address these challenges. <u>Within this context, we emphasise the importance of the IPBES Thematic Assessment report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health, which stresses the interconnectedness of climate change, biodiversity, water, food production and health, noting it sets out 71 policy response options for an integrated and coordinated approach to addressing these challenges.</u>	We would like to see reference to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This framing better reflects the severity of these issues which directly impact all Member States. We also recognise the importance of other interconnected crises, such as desertification and land degradation, and these should be reflected in the Ministerial Declaration. We recommend replacing the second part of this paragraph with our proposed amendment to indicate the policy response options set out in the IPBES Thematic Assessment. This is more action-orientated than the text it replaces.
	[NEW PARAGRAPH SUGGESTION ON ONE HEALTH] <u>Support the efforts of the Quadripartite One Health Alliance, due to the deep interconnection between the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution with plant, animal and human health, food security, infectious disease emergence and antimicrobial resistance, and the value of taking a One Health approach to addressing these issues.</u>	We would welcome language on the One Health approach, especially considering the role of UNEP within the Quadripartite. As presented by IPBES and others, there are clear links between the health of the shared environment, food systems and human beings.
	[NEW PARAGRAPH SUGGESTION ON AMR] <u>Implement the commitments of the Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance agreed at UNGA79 at all levels.</u>	We would like to see continued commitment to the implementation of the commitments made at the UNGA 79 through the AMR Political Declaration.
	[NEW PLACEHOLDER SUGGESTION FOR THE INDEPENDENT PANEL FOR EVIDENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST AMR] <u>[Placeholder to welcome the launch of the Independent Panel for Evidence for Action]</u>	We would welcome this 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.

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	<u>Against AMR]</u>	
	[NEW PLACEHOLDER SUGGESTION FOR THE PANDEMIC ACCORD] <u>[Placeholder on the outcome of the resumed 13th session and drafting group of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and the seventy-eighth World Health Assembly.]</u>	We would welcome this placeholder on the Pandemic Accord. Pandemic prevention, which will be a key pillar within the Accord, is inextricably linked to the human-animal-environment interface. The draft Ministerial Declaration should contain a placeholder which welcomes the Pandemic Accord once agreed later this year and note UNEP's role in supporting implementation of the obligations, as part of the Quadripartite One Health Alliance.
	[NEW PLACEHOLDER FOR OCEAN] <u>[Placeholder on the UN Ocean Conference and for language on the ocean and coasts]</u>	We strongly support the inclusion of a placeholder for the UN Ocean Conference – and in general we would like to see a strengthening of references to the ocean and coasts throughout the Declaration. 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 – life below water.
(d)	Encourage Member States to engage and mobilize the international community to enhance financial <u>resources from all sources</u> to facilitate the implementation of <u>the New Collective Quantified Goal</u> agreed <u>at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at the Convention of Biological Diversity (COP15) in Montreal, Canada, and the Strategic Framework (2018-2039) adopted at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP13) in Ordos, China.</u>	We support the principle of the text but we would suggest refining who the international community are to better align with the decision text of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). We have also amended the paragraph so all three Conventions are consistently referenced. Our long-standing position is to include "from all sources" when referencing financial mobilisation so it encompasses finance from domestic, international, public and private sources.
(e)	Foster synergies, cooperation and collaboration to advance the effective and inclusive implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other internationally agreed global commitments, inviting the governing bodies of MEAs, whilst respecting their independence and respective mandates, to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Assembly to promote integrated approaches and policy coherence.	
(f)	Call on regional forums of ministers of the environment and environmental authorities to engage in multilateral cooperation for <u>more effective international environmental governance that advances synergies and integrated solutions to address the triple planetary crisis of</u> climate change, biodiversity and <u>pollution, as well as other crises such as</u> land degradation.	We would like to see reference to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This framing better reflects the severity of these issues which directly impact all Member States. We also recognise the importance of other interconnected crises, such as desertification and land degradation, and these should be reflected in the Ministerial Declaration.

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(g)	Advance circular economy principles by <u>supporting</u> ing industries to adopt sustainable production and consumption models that emphasize resource efficiency, waste minimization, and the rethinking of product life cycles, through policy incentives and innovation. <u>In addition, drive a systemic shift towards long-term sustainability, reducing environmental impact and strengthening long-term planetary resilience and ecological health.</u>	We recommend “supporting” instead of “encouraging” as this better represents the work that should be undertaken with industry to collaboratively move towards a circular economy. We have proposed additional minor amendments to strengthen this paragraph.
(h)		We propose the deletion of this paragraph. It is not clear what “sustainable solutions and environmental policies” we are encouraging or what “vital sectors” refers to. We believe early warning systems and disaster risk management are covered sufficiently, and more explicitly, in the following subparagraphs (i) and (j) – especially as the language in subparagraph (j) is partly the same as what is contained in this subparagraph (“stress the need to enhance coordination...”).
(i)	Call for the strengthening <u>of</u> disaster risk governance to manage natural and manmade hazards by integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes, and investments <u>[Query: at all levels]</u> , and calling for 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.	We have suggested the inclusion of “disaster risk” to improve clarity of the “specific challenges” faced by countries, in line with the overarching purpose of this subparagraph. We would welcome clarification from the Presidency on what is meant by integrating DRR “at all levels”, For example, is this referring to national, regional, and local or is it about across sectors? We suggest that this should be made explicit or examples provided to highlight what is meant, e.g. in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
(j)	Stress the need to enhance coordination, coherence and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk management systems to advance climate-resilient development and <u>to</u> enhance response and recovery against manmade and natural <u>hazards</u> , induced or exacerbated by climate change <u>and biodiversity loss</u> , such as droughts, heavy rains, wildfires, heat waves, famines and flooding, leaving no one behind.	We suggest keeping the language consistent with subparagraph (i) which refers to hazards rather than disasters. We prefer the term natural hazards, as disasters in and of themselves are not ‘natural’ (i.e. it is the circumstances around them which make them a disaster).
(k)	Champion a just transition towards a clean energy future by advocating for the widespread accessibility and adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, <u>[Query: and the advancement of environmental rule of law]</u> ; <u>and ensure that the shift to a low-carbon economy is inclusive and equitable, by utilising participatory processes such as co-evaluation and citizen science, and by incorporating diverse knowledge systems and values in planning, implementation and evaluation processes, when</u> reducing emissions across industrial, transportation,	We interpret this subparagraph as implying the way to ensure a shift to a low carbon economy is inclusive and equitable is <i>by</i> reducing emissions across industrial, transportation and residential sectors. We believe this should be redrafted to be clearer on how a shift to a low carbon economy <i>can be made</i> inclusive and equitable (we have provided examples) when reducing emissions across the identified sectors. We would welcome clarification from the Presidency on what message the

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	and residential sectors, <u>thereby contributing</u> to climate resilience while fostering sustainable economic growth.	Ministerial Declaration is attempting to establish with the inclusion of “and the advancement of environmental rule of law” within this particular subparagraph.	Deleted: this transition contributes
(l)	Call for enhanced <u>efforts towards the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals</u> which requires strong support for <u>voluntary technology transfer on mutually-agreed terms</u> and knowledge <u>sharing on mutually-agreed terms</u> , as well as capacity <u>development</u> . This includes fostering partnerships that enable access to new technologies, expertise, and resources, <u>supporting all countries, in particular developing countries, to</u> better drive their own <u>sustainable</u> growth and development.	It is our long-standing position for transfer of technology to be “voluntary” and on “mutually-agreed terms”. We are unable to support this paragraph without these amendments. In-line with language used in SDG Target 17.6; we would prefer “knowledge sharing” rather than “knowledge transfer”, as this avoids implying that knowledge will only flow in one direction, whereas the process of knowledge sharing allows for mutual capacity development and cooperation. We recommend shortening this paragraph for clarity and to avoid the implication that capacity development should only apply to local communities and industries, as capacity development should take place at/in all levels and contexts. While we recognise the particular needs of developing countries, capacity development is important for all countries and we would prefer to align language with this.	Deleted: the Deleted: for an Deleted: s Deleted: d Deleted: g Deleted: transfer Deleted: building Deleted: , while strengthening local skills and institutions. By enhancing the capabilities of local communities and industries, developing supporting all Deleted: can Deleted: different Deleted: environmental issues such as Deleted: and biodiversity loss Deleted: scale Deleted: Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet and to Ee e Deleted: e Deleted: & Deleted: AI Deleted: as innovative solutions Deleted: SDG Deleted: plan towards sustainability and encouraging Deleted: full Deleted: a comprehensive assessment of the potential negative environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, including energy consumption and carbon emissions associated with digital infrastructure. This should be accompanied by strengthened regulatory frameworks Deleted: its
(m)	Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise between governments and international organizations and collective action to combat <u>the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and other environmental crises</u> , building capacity at <u>regional, national and global levels</u> .	Our edits are intended to make this subparagraph consistent with the wider (amended) text. We would like to see reference to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This framing better reflects the severity of these issues which impact all Member States. We would suggest adding “regional and global”, as the exchange of expertise and resulting capacity development takes place and has effects that reach beyond the national level.	
(n)	<u>Encourage, develop and</u> incorporate digital solutions and <u>artificial intelligence</u> , in national plans <u>that contribute to and accelerate achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the appropriate</u> access to data.	The beginning of this paragraph is not needed if we include this phrasing within the chapeau in paragraph 4. We believe the SDGs are sufficient here, which encapsulate sustainability. On access to data, “full” access may risk privacy or security issues or other risks, which we cannot accept. We believe “appropriate” is a better term as it suggests proportionality and supports data access in certain contexts.	
(o)	Stress the need for <u>robust</u> , frameworks and standards to ensure <u>the</u> development and use <u>of artificial intelligence aligns</u> with <u>relevant</u> environmental sustainability	Our edits to this paragraph are to ensure a balance between environmental protection and potential risks with the innovation and opportunities that AI	

	principles and ecosystem protection, while promoting international cooperation and the exchange of best practices for <u>the responsible deployment of artificial intelligence</u> .	presents. We are not in a position to accept language relating to regulation, as we are currently considering options for AI legislation. "Responsible AI deployment" is a more accepted phrase internationally, so we propose to keep this paragraph in line with this.	Deleted: and ethical AI
(p)	[Placeholder on the outcome of the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.]	We welcome the inclusion of this placeholder.	
(q)	[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.]	We welcome the inclusion of this placeholder.	
(r)	<u>Strengthen nature-based solutions, in line with UNEA Resolution 5/5, to contribute to sustainable water management, halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and tackling terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystem degradation; noting the multiple social, economic and environmental benefits of these ecosystems for biodiversity, food, water, and energy security, for carbon sequestration and storage, and for underpinning our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals</u>	We recommend clarifying and strengthening the message in this subparagraph, including by aligning it with established phrasing (e.g. halting and reversing) and UNEA Resolution 5/5 on nature-based solutions for sustainable development.	Deleted: Call for ecosystem protection by Deleted: s Deleted: ing Deleted: ensuring Deleted: minimizing Deleted: safeguarding, conserving, and restoring degraded land, soil, and ecosystemstackling terrestrial, Deleted: . These ecosystems support Deleted: serve as habitats for biodiversity, and contribute tofor Deleted: Deleted: and sequestration. Their preservation delivers numerous economic, social, and environmental co-benefits, reinforcing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Deleted: indigenous people Deleted: the human right to
(s)	Invite Member States to enhance the role of women, youth, <u>persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities</u> , and civil society, <u>in the protection of the environment and to ensure their inclusive participation in decision-making processes, while protecting and respecting human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.</u>	We would recommend expanding the groups listed in this paragraph to include persons with disabilities and local communities. Our edits align with the language in UNGA resolution 76/300, which affirmed the importance of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for the enjoyment of all human rights.	
(t)	Commit to cooperate to transition to sustainable food systems in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing with great urgency that a multisectoral and integrated approach to food systems is critical to achieving global food security, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, while accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant multilateral environmental agreements.		
(u)	Urge Member States, international financial institutions, private foundations, <u>funds and other actors to cooperate to align the global financial architecture with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to strengthen national policy, regulatory</u>	Our edits are intended to strengthen this subparagraph and to make it consistent with (the amended) subparagraph (d). We would welcome a reference to identifying and eliminating, phasing out or reforming	Deleted: Deleted: and

	frameworks, and financial mechanisms to mobilise resources from all sources, including by identifying environmentally harmful subsidies and eliminating, phasing out or reforming them, which enhances the transparency, availability and predictability of financial support to implement the goals and targets of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.	environmentally harmful subsidies.
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