

Name of Member State / Organization	NORWAY
Date	27 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]

General remarks:

Norway welcomes the draft and thanks the Omani Presidency for a good starting point for our deliberations. We will continue to engage constructively, as it will be important to send a signal from UNEA-7 that global environmental cooperation and collaboration remains a priority.

There are many issues that can be mentioned, and we note that some topics that were in the zero draft have been removed. The issue of sustainable food systems is one which Norway would like to see addressed in the declaration. Norway stands ready to consider proposals for the inclusion of text on issues such as air pollution, which remains a key driver of premature death for many globally.

Addressing climate change without any reference to mitigation/emissions reduction will seriously undermine the credibility of the declaration and is not something Norway would be able to support.

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.	Norway supports the retention of the reference to the 2030 Agenda.

3. {Placeholder} Global Youth Environment Assembly, December 2025.	Supports
4. {Placeholder} Seventh Edition of Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.	Supports
5. We welcome the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem (IPBES) Assessment Reports on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health; <u>and on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.</u>	Norway welcomes the inclusion of the reference to the latest IPBES report, but since two reports were approved at the 11 th Plenary, we must welcome both reports, not just one.
6. We recognize that the interconnected nature of the global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, 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 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 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 consumption and production that promote resource efficiency, <u>reduce the extraction and production of virgin resources, waste minimization minimize waste</u> 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.	Supports
D. Champion a just transition 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.	Just transition should not be limited to the energy sector. This means that either additional areas should be included, or the reference should be general.
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. 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.	

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 response, and promoting the Quadripartite One Health <u>collaboration Alliance</u> to enhance its policy impact, in line with national circumstances and priorities.	Norway fully supports the inclusion of this paragraph. We note that the MoU establishing the Quadripartite mandates a collaboration between the four agencies, and although not critical, for the sake of accuracy propose this is reflected.
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.]	General remark: There are several different things which are linked together in this paragraph, while at the same time other important issues, such as climate change mitigation are not mentioned. The paragraph is misleading and communicates relationships between issues which are not consistent with the Paris Agreement or decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). The paragraph must be completely re-written to be in line with the Paris Agreement and CMA decisions. NDCs are an instrument for communicating obligations pursuant to article 4 of the Paris Agreement. Further guidance for article 4 is elaborated in decision 4.CMA/1 and mandated in the mitigation section of 1/CP.21. Hence referencing NDCs without a clear link to mitigation is not appropriate. Countries may use the NDCs according to decision 9.CMA/1 for adaptation communications referred to in article 7 in the Paris Agreement. On the link between adaptation communication and NAPs the decision 9.CMA/1 establishes that Parties that choose to submit their adaptation communication as part of a national communication or a national adaptation plan may provide information taking into consideration the guidelines contained in document FCCC/CP/1999/7 and decisions 17/CP.8 and 5/CP.17.

	Accordingly, while Parties are encouraged to use the NDCs for adaptation communication and further that adaptation communication may be in the format of a NAP, there is no provision that links a direct encouragement to use NDC to communicate NAPs as indicated in this paragraph. Without this being reflected in the paragraph in some appropriate manner, the paragraph is problematic, as most parties have submitted NAPs independently of their NDCs. Nor is there is any clear provision from the CMA to “ensure sustainable resource management” in the context of NDCs or NAPs. Norway is not opposed to language that encourages the implementation of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance. However, by listing the NCQG, NDCs and NAPs as is done in this paragraph, a relationship between these is implied which currently is not provided for in the Paris Agreement or in decisions from the CMA.
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	Norway notes that LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS are referenced throughout Agenda 2030. As such, outcomes from UNEA, not least of which the ministerial declaration run the risk of being inconsistent with Agenda 2030 without recognition of the particular challenges faced by these countries if we are to achieve “no one left behind”. Paragraphs 22 and 56 in Agenda 2030 also acknowledge additional specific challenges, including conflict. Our understanding is that the reference recognises exactly that “Every country faces specific challenges”, and supports that such language could be usefully incorporated into the declaration.

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.	
I. Encourage Member States to <u>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, and</u> 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.	Supports
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.	Supports
K. {Placeholder} on the outcome of the resumed third session of the ad hoc open-	Supports

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.	Supports
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.	Supports
N. Advance the swift implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework <u>of the Convention of Biological Diversity</u> 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; address ecosystem, land degradation and drought through land restoration, land protection and conservation; maintain ecosystem services and develop sustainable food and agricultural production systems that can enhance food security.	A reference to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is important.

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 developing countries to enable them to advance sustainable solutions to tackle the global interconnected environmental challenges and crises through adequate financing, capacity-building, and technology transfer.	
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, relevant stakeholders, international financial institutions, global funds and financial mechanisms, multilateral development banks and private foundations.	
Q. 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 sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, whilst protecting and promoting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment <u>as adopted in United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/300</u>.	Norway supports this paragraph. A reference to the UNGA resolution provides clarity and concretises the commitment being made to the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable development.
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 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.	Norway was a co-sponsor for both the resolutions mentioned in the two paragraphs below, and as such agrees these both relate to important issues. Notwithstanding which, reference to these topics in the ministerial declaration should stand on its own merits (substance) without reference to the resolutions. Inclusion in the ministerial declaration should be based on something which goes beyond the resolutions to warrant being addressed in this way in the declaration. On this basis, Norway stands ready to consider amended text on the issues addressed below.
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 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.]	
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.]	
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