Name of Member States / Organization	*AFRICAN GROUP*
Date	*30/042025*

ZERO DRAFT – 28th March 2025

Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session

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 by young people in multilateral environmental governance.] to leave it as placeholder

3. [We welcome the Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.] to leave it as placeholder

4. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, , in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals

5. We decide, recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority, to take the following actions:

   (a) Strengthen international cooperation to mitigate ~~transboundary~~ pollution ~~issues~~ in its different aspects and dimensions, support the development of monitoring systems to effectively manage ~~these~~ pollution challenges~~issues~~ ~~prioritize the development of advanced monitoring systems to effectively track and manage these issues across borders,~~ and ensuring **a just** science-driven approach to pollution~~ control and environmental resilience~~,

   (b) ~~emphasizing on the effects of conflicts and call for their environmental evaluation and rehabilitation.~~ Recognize the inevitability of the negative impacts of armed conflicts on the environment, and hence calls for thorough assessment of such potential negative impact on the environment with the view of mitigating them and paving the way to recovery and reconstruction activities and in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law.

   ~~(a)~~

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~~(b)~~ Stress the implementation of unprecedented emission reductions: Member States are encouraged ~~must~~ to elevate their ambition of cutting ~~42% per cent~~ off annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, ~~phase out fossil fuels,~~ and scale up renewable energy. Stronger international cooperation and support led by developed countries with regard to the provision of adequate and predictable means of implementation to developing countries,~~.~~ including through enhanced climate finance and affordable technology transfer, capacity-building, partnerships, and the sharing of best practices , will be essential to deliver on the Paris Agreement~~t.~~

(c) Urges Parties and invites non-Party stakeholders to pursue the adaptation objectives of the Paris Agreement, including the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and enhance adaptation action, as well as support for developing countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

~~(d)~~ Recognizing the interconnectedness between climate Change, desertification, drought, land degradation and ~~of~~ biodiversity loss, d~~esertification, land degradation, droughts and the impacts of climate change~~, we emphasize the need for integrated and coordinated approaches to address these challenges in a comprehensive way. Desertification accelerates Biodiversity loss ~~accelerates~~ and land degradation ~~and desertification~~, and has become a major driver to ~~while~~ climate change. These interconnected challenges exacerbate~~s these processes through~~ rising temperatures, ~~shifting precipitation patterns~~, and extreme weather events, thus producing negative impacts on livelihoods, including on food security, especially in developing countries whose economies are based on agriculture. ~~In return desertification, drought contributes to land degradation and loss of biodiversity while exacerbating climate change.~~

(d) Call upon Member States to engage and mobilize the international community to enhance and scale up financial support to developing countries to facilitate the implementation of agreed outcomes ~~of the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference~~ the 29th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention (COP29) held from 11 to 24 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018 – 2030.

(e) Welcome the outcomes of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological diversity (CBD COP16), in particular the establishment and operationalization of the Cali Fund to share the benefits from uses of digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI) more fairly and equitably. We call upon developed countries to provide adequate finance to developing countries for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to conserve lands, seas and inland waters by 30%, to restore degraded ecosystems by 30% and to ensure their sustainable use, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

~~(e)~~(f) Welcome with appreciation the outcomes of the 15th and 16th sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular the launch of the Riyadh Global Partnership for Drought Resilience, as well as the Abidjan Call to act on drought, desertification and land degradation.

~~(f)~~ Emphasize the importance of enhanced coherence and synergy among MEAs, recognising the interconnectedness of environmental challenges and call for further

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coordination and streamlining of their implementation at all levels to ensure a more coherent global response to climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, drought and land degradation, as well as, pollution, building upon the spirit of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 6/4 on promoting ~~Foster~~ synergies, cooperation and collaboration for national ~~to advance the effective and inclusive~~ implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other internationally agreed global commitments, inviting the governing bodies of MEAs and other relevant environmental instruments~~, whilst respecting their independence and respective mandates, to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Assembly to promote integrated approaches and policy coherence.~~

(g) Call on regional forums of ministers of the environment and environmental authorities to engage in multilateral cooperation for a more effective international environmental governance that advances synergies and integrated solutions across climate change, biodiversity, desertification, drought and land degradation, pollution and waste action.

(h) Advance circular economy by encouraging 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, drive a shift towards sustainability, reducing environmental impact and strengthening long-term planetary resilience.

(i) Encouraging sustainable solutions and environmental policies that are based on agreed upon relevant scientific research and innovations, including in monitoring, early warning and assessment systems in relevant fields to support the capacity of vital sectors. stressing the need to enhance coordination, coherence, and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk management systems.

(j) Call for the strengthening disaster risk governance to manage natural and manmade disasters ~~hazards~~ by integrating disaster risk reduction where relevant into policies, programmes, and investments, and calling for enhanced support for Developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and countries facing specific challenges.

(k) Stress the need to enhance coordination, coherence and integration between early warning systems and disaster risk management systems to advance climate-resilient development and enhance response and recovery against manmade and natural disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as droughts, sand and dust storms, heavy rains, wildfires, heat waves, famines and flooding, leaving no one behind, ~~,~~taking into account the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, and the special needs and circumstances of developing countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries, for establishing early warning systems to address the extreme weather events.

(l) Prioritize a just transition in all of its economic, social and environmental aspects, including towards a clean energy future by advocating for the widespread accessibility and adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and the advancement of environmental rule of law. Ensure that the shift to a low-carbon economy is just, inclusive and equitable, by reducing emissions across industrial, transportation, and residential sectors, this transition contributes to climate resilience ~~while fostering sustainable economic growth~~ without prejudice to pursuing the right of development by developing countries.

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~~(l)~~(m) Highlight the interlinkages between trade in critical energy transition minerals and climate action, and the significance of ensuring adequate elaboration of the emerging energy market that enables the accessibility of all markets to the minerals-based technologies, in order to achieve just energy transition to all countries.

(n) Call for enhance the efforts for an effective implementation of sustainable development goals which requires strong support for technology and knowledge transfer, as well as capacity building for developing countries. This includes fostering partnerships that enable access to new affordable technologies, expertise, and resources, while strengthening local skills and institutions. By enhancing national capabilities, developing countries can better drive their growth and development.

~~(m)~~(o) Emphasizes the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach to sustainable development that takes into account the environmental, economic and social dimensions and prioritizes the rights of individuals in the most affected communities by environmental degradation, as well as addressing the widened financial gap for the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the global South, hence striking up balance between the development and the rights-based approaches.

~~(n)~~(p) Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise between governments and international organizations and collective action to combat different environmental issues such as climate change, desertification, drought and land degradation, as well as, pollution and biodiversity loss, building capacity at national scale.

~~(o)~~(q) ~~Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet and to encourage develop & incorporate digital solutions and AI in national plans as innovative solutions that contribute to accelerate achieving SDG plan towards sustainability and encouraging the full access to data.~~

~~(p)~~(r) Stress the need for 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 and standards to ensure its development and use align with environmental sustainability principles and ecosystem protection, while promoting international cooperation and the exchange of best practices as well as the transfer of the best available knowledge for responsible and ethical AI deployment to developing countries.~~

(s) [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.]

(t) Stress the need for adopting a gradual, just, integrated and science-based transition approach to address plastic pollution, with the aim of attaining environmentally sustainable production and consumption, taking into account the related social and economic impacts.

~~(q)~~(u) Underscores the need to facilitate developing countries accessibility to plastic alternatives through low-cost and sustainable technology transfer that enables a just transition path, as well as to provide additional/stand-alone, adequate, predictable and sustainable finance.

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~~(r)~~ [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.]

(v) Call for ecosystem protection by strengthening nature-based solutions, promoting s~~ustainable water management solutions, minimizing deforestation and forest~~ Water-Energy-Food-Environment-Ecosystem Nexus Approach as a holistic and integrated approach to ensure that water resources are managed efficiently, renewable energy is promoted, sustainable agriculture is enhanced, and ecosystem health is preserved".~~degradation, and combating desertification and drought, as well as, safeguarding, conserving, and restoring degraded land, soil, and ecosystems. These ecosystems support food, water, and energy security, serve as habitats for biodiversity, and contribute to carbon storage and sequestration.~~ We further call for greater investment in cross-sectoral governance frameworks, innovative technologies, and nature-based solutions that optimize resource use, minimize trade-offs, and maximize co-benefits, particularly in regions vulnerable to climate change and resource scarcity

~~(s)~~(w) Recognize the increasing frequency and intensity of drought events and their devastating impacts on communities and ecosystems, and in this regard, stress the urgent need to strengthen resilience and build adaptive capacity by converging efforts to protect biodiversity, tackle climate change, combat desertification, and achieve land degradation neutrality. We further acknowledge the outcomes of the twenty eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and encourage its coherent implementation in synergy with relevant biodiversity and land degradation frameworks to enhance drought preparedness and response.

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~~(t)~~(x) Invite member states to enhance the role of all stakeholders, in particular women, youth and civil society, local communities and indigenous people in the protection of the environment and to ensure their inclusive participation in ~~decision making processes,~~ protecting and respecting the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the right to development.

~~(u)~~(y) Engage to cooperate to transition to ~~sustainable~~ food systems transformations in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing 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.

(z) Urge Member States, international financial institutions, private foundations, funds and other actors to cooperate to align the global financial architecture with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strengthen national policy and regulatory frameworks to enhance the transparency, availability, affordability 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, taking into account the RIO principles.

~~(v)~~(aa) We underscore the crucial importance of mobilizing and aligning financing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing global environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution,

desertification, drought and land degradation. We call upon Member States and observer States of the United Nations, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, private foundations, philanthropies, funds, and other actors to actively engage in this important process to enhance collective efforts, synergies and coherence in financing for sustainable development, building upon the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and recognizing the need for a renewed international financial architecture, and in this regard, recalling the Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session.

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