

Name of Member State / Organization	Japan
Date	30 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.
4. {Placeholder} Seventh Edition of Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.
5. We welcome the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem (IPBES) Assessment Report on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health
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, waste minimization and the rethinking of product design and life cycles, advance incentives and innovation as well as business-led initiatives such as global circularity protocol for business, and drive a systemic shift towards sustainability, whilst reducing environmental impact for a resilient planet.
- 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 sustainable societies, leaving no one behind. just and equitable
- 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 Alliance to enhance its policy impact, in line with national circumstances and priorities.
- G. Encourage all Member States to pursue ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to keep the 1.5 °C goal within reach and to address the climate crisis in this critical decade, and 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.
- 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.

Commented [A1]: The significant roles played by businesses and the private sector for resource efficiency and circular economy approaches is highlighted in many discussions, including UNGA and UNEA. It is important to monitor progress on circularity and resource efficiency throughout the value chain through a common disclosure framework and indicators. We believe that the Global Circularity Protocol for Business (GCP) developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the One Planet Network (which is serving as the primary implementation mechanism for the UNEP 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP)) serves as such a framework. The GCP aims to address key accountability and policy gaps that are currently hindering the global scaling of circularity, and it also provides a framework to help businesses decouple economic growth from resource depletion, promoting a more resilient and sustainable global economy. Thus, Japan would like to request to include the proposed language, which provides a strong political message for promoting circular economy.

Commented [A2]: References to just transitions should be kept within language adopted at UENAG. We propose to delete "just and equitable" and replace with "sustainable".

Commented [A3]: We have 3 comments to paragraph G: (1) NDC is for mitigation while NAP is for adaptation. They are two different things which should be considered separately. So they should not be connected with "to" but should be separated with an "and".

(Under the Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, it clearly states, Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.)

(2) Propose to maintain the wording on 1.5C goal, using wording from the outcome document of the Global Stocktaking (Decision CMA.5, para5).

(3) The discussion on the actual operation of the NCQG is only starting at the UNFCCC COPs, and UNEA should not prejudice its discussions from outside. Therefore we propose its deletion.

- 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 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.

Commented [A4]: Please kindly clarify what is meant by affordable AI. It appears to infringe on business policies and decisions by private industries, which may not be conducive for political declarations by governments. (We will request the deletion of "affordability and" ")

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.
- K. {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.
- 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.~~
- 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.
- N. **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; address ecosystem, land degradation and drought through land restoration, land protection and conservation; maintain ecosystem services such as marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and develop sustainable food and agricultural production systems that can enhance food security.

Commented [A5]: "Internationally agreed" should be "international", without "agreed". The heading makes reference to MEAs immediately prior to this, and a distinction should be made between legally binding instruments that give rise to obligations (MEAs) and other frameworks that are not legally binding (by deleting the "agreed" in the latter).

Commented [A6]: We understand that paragraph L is a mere placeholder and not a subject of drafting negotiations at this point, but we notice that the placeholder contains elements that do not match the actual mandate of the INC based on UNEA Res. 5/14. We would propose deleting such elements, and otherwise expect that the wording to be eventually proposed will reflect the INC mandate or the results of the INC negotiations accurately.

Commented [A7]: We propose additional wording acknowledging the importance of marine ecosystems acting as carbon sinks, based on para 33 of the 1st GST conclusion document.
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_4_gst.pdf

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 on voluntary and mutually agreed terms.
- 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 access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment..
- 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.

Commented [A8]: Technology transfer should be undertaken on a voluntary basis and upon mutual consent. Therefore it is necessary to add here "voluntary and mutually agreed terms".

Commented [A9]: The human rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is not universally recognized human rights under international human rights law.

Reverting to the language of the UNEA6 declaration is also an option, and we remain open to where or how such mention would fit best in this declaration: "We recall General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. " (UNEP/EA.6/HLS.1 para4)

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

- 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

Commented [A10]: Japan supports this paragraph as promoting synergies is crucial for advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, as submitted through our earlier written comment for the Declaration.

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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