



INPUTS TO UNEA-7 DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

21 January 2025

1. Key Elements and Messages to Advance the UNEA-7 Theme:

The Ministerial Declaration should emphasize the critical role of environmental protection in achieving sustainable development and ensuring a resilient planet. It should highlight the interconnectedness of environmental challenges and the need for integrated solutions that address the root causes of environmental degradation. Key messages should include:

- The urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and international environmental agreements such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- The importance of strengthening environmental governance at all levels, including through enhanced cooperation, capacity building, and access to information and technology.
- The need for increased and predictable financial resources to support developing countries in their efforts to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development.
- The importance of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as the just transition to a circular economy.
- The need to address the root causes of environmental degradation, such as poverty, inequality, and unsustainable economic models.

2. Key Messages from Recent Scientific Reports:

The Ministerial Declaration should draw upon the latest scientific evidence to underscore the urgency and scale of environmental challenges. Key messages from recent scientific reports include:

- The alarming rate of biodiversity loss, with one million species at risk of extinction, and the urgent need to halt and reverse this trend.
- The increasing impacts of climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme weather events, and the need to accelerate efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate.
- The growing problem of pollution, including air, water, and soil pollution, and the need to reduce waste and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- The importance of protecting and restoring ecosystems, including forests, oceans, and wetlands, to ensure the provision of essential ecosystem services.

3. Collective Actions and Policy Solutions:

The Ministerial Declaration should call for collective action and policy solutions to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. Key proposals include:

- Develop and implement national strategies for green financing: these strategies should aim to mobilize public and private investments in sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and ecosystem restoration.
- Promote regional cooperation on transboundary environmental issues: this includes collaborative efforts to manage shared water resources, combat air and marine pollution, and conserve biodiversity across borders.
- Integrate environmental considerations into all sectors of the economy: this can be achieved through policies that incentivize sustainable practices in agriculture, industry, tourism, and other key sectors.
- Invest in research and development to promote innovation and technological solutions for environmental challenges.

4. Additional Messages:

The Ministerial Declaration should also emphasize the importance of:

- Promoting environmental education and awareness to foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment.
- Empowering women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples to participate in environmental decision-making and action.
- Strengthening the link between environmental protection and human rights, including the right to a healthy environment.
- Recognizing the importance of traditional knowledge and practices in environmental conservation and management.