

Climate Change Research Institute

Subject – Submission of written inputs for the zero draft ministerial declaration

To His Excellency,

We are honoured to receive your invitation to provide our initial thoughts, key topics, and issues to be considered for inclusion in the draft ministerial declaration.

The Climate Change Research Institute is committed to support the global efforts to address the climate change crisis and promote sustainable development. Our initial thoughts in relation to the UNEA-7 theme “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet” are concerning;

1. Global Environmental Agenda: To emphasize the importance of addressing the global environmental agenda in a holistic and integrated manner, recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
2. Emerging Environmental Challenges: To highlight the need to tackle emerging environmental challenges, including the impact of climate change on human health, the environment, and the economy, as well as the importance of addressing the root causes of environmental degradation.
3. Sustainable Development: To emphasize the importance of sustainable development and the need to balance economic, social, and environmental considerations in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The key topics and issues to be attended in the Ministerial declaration would include:

- i). **Climate Change**: Recognizing the urgent need to address climate change, including the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and promoting climate-resilient development.
- ii). **Biodiversity**: Highlighting the importance of conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, including the need to protect and restore ecosystems, promote sustainable land use, and address the drivers of biodiversity loss.
- iii). **Pollution**: Emphasizing the need to address pollution in all its forms, including air, water, and soil pollution; promoting the use of clean technologies, plastic pollution control and sustainable practices. Aiming to end plastic pollution, including marine pollution by 2040, the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) has established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in March 2022 towards a global legally binding instrument. After two years of talks to end plastic pollution, we are closer to securing a treaty to protect human, planetary and economic health.

In this context, the Climate Change Research Institute is already taking steps by organizing discussions and meetings to emphasize the nature-based solutions to beat plastic pollution, achieving SDGs and suggest the need for effective institutions, laws, and policies to support management practices. In 2024, a book “**Plastic Pollution: Challenges and Green**

Solutions", Eds. Malti Goel and Neha G. Tripathi, published by the Institute in collaboration with Springer Nature, deals with this critical challenge head-on covering a vast array of dimensions related to plastic pollution. The book offers a comprehensive understanding of local and global challenges, spanning the scale of the problems arising from plastics and microplastics, their drivers, effects, and emerging green solutions.

Finally, the Institute fully endorses the Roadmap for preparation of the Ministerial declaration in relation the UNEA-7 theme.