

Name of Member State / Organization	Bhutan
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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 **a shared sense of the urgency** ~~aim of advancing~~ **to promote** 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 **demands** ~~requires~~ urgent, **coordinated** and collective responses from the international community. **We** ~~and~~ **therefore decide-commit to undertaking** ~~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, and~~ Recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority, call on Member States to advance ~~sustainable and integrated~~ **and inclusive** 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, **evidence-based** monitoring systems to effectively track and manage these issues. ~~across borders,~~ **We emphasize the**

~~importance of ensuring utilizing evidence-based and~~ science-driven ~~approaches~~ to pollution control and environmental resilience.

- C. Encourage Member States to advance circular economy approaches and policy responses towards sustainable consumption and production, ~~focusing on that promote~~ resource efficiency, waste minimization and the ~~rethinking of product design and life cycle~~ ~~rethinking~~. We also call for, ~~advance incentives and~~ innovation and ~~incentives to support~~ drive a systemic shift towards sustainability, ~~whilst and~~ ~~reduced~~ing environmental impact ~~for a resilient planet~~.
- D. Champion a just transition towards a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by advocating for ~~the widespread~~ ~~universal~~ access ~~to~~ ~~ibility and adoption of~~ renewable energy, energy efficient technologies and ~~reduced-low~~ resource intensity ~~development pathways~~, ~~in an effort to~~ ~~help build~~ create just and equitable societies ~~and ensure~~ that, ~~leaving~~ no one is left behind.
- 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 implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to advance resilient ~~solutions~~, ~~including~~ and ~~N~~nature-based solutions, whilst ensuring sustainable resource management, the swift implementation of New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, ~~and with~~ 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 ~~in order~~ to advance climate-resilient development. ~~We call for improved 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, ~~GLOFs~~, sand and dust storms. ~~We also leaving no one behind, and~~ call for the strengthening of disaster risk governance by integrating ~~of the~~ disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes, and investments, ~~with~~

special attention to the needs—~~at all levels, and enhanced support~~ for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and ~~others countries~~ facing specific ~~unique~~ challenges, ~~recognizing that these challenges are~~ often exacerbated by climate fragility, ~~armed~~ conflicts, migration and displacement issues.

- 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 of 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, ~~and ensure while encouraging accessibility~~ and ~~affordability~~ digital tolls for all of data and AI tools as appropriate, leaving no one behind.

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. ~~We call for by promoting~~ the sound management of chemicals and waste across all sectors, ~~which contributes directly~~ supporting the achievement of ~~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~~ to meet the Land Degradation Neutrality targets of ~~under~~ the UNCCD ~~by developing through~~ effective policy responses and ~~financial mobilizing~~ 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.

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 systems, 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. ~~We call for and ensuring their inclusive and meaningful participation in decision-making processes and reaffirm to advance sustainable solutions for a resilient planet, whilst protecting and promoting the human right 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. ~~We 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.

- 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.

***Comment:** We respectfully recommend that the Ministerial Declaration explicitly recognize the critical importance of mountain ecosystems, where these landscapes provide the foundation for biodiversity, climate regulation, freshwater sources, and livelihoods for millions of people. These ecosystems are not only biodiversity hotspots but also crucial for water security, forest cover, and disaster risk reduction, especially under the growing pressures of climate change and unsustainable development.*

We propose including a dedicated clause or operative paragraph under the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Protection or Climate Resilience and Nature-based Solutions section of the declaration to reflect the unique role of mountain ecosystems in sustaining environmental, cultural, and economic wellbeing in the region. We also suggest allocating a specific placeholder to ensure that mountain ecosystems receive focused attention and are addressed through regionally coordinated actions and investments.
