

Name of Member States / Organization	Emirates Environmental Group
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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.
3. We welcome the Global Environmental Outlook 2025 and its findings.
4. 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, prioritize the development of advanced monitoring systems to effectively track and manage these issues across borders, ensuring a science-driven approach to pollution control and environmental resilience, emphasizing on the effects of conflicts and call for their environmental evaluation and rehabilitation.

EEG: While we support the focus on international cooperation to tackle transboundary pollution, this approach often falls short due to conflicting national priorities, prolonged negotiations and weak enforcement. Additionally, significant gaps in data, model accuracy and monitoring—especially in conflict zones—undermine a science-driven approach.

We recommend that this action explicitly include mechanisms to improve data-sharing frameworks, support capacity-building in under-resourced areas and establish clearer pathways for ensuring accountability and implementation at all levels. By acknowledging and addressing these real-world limitations in the proposed action, UNEA can significantly increase the likelihood of meaningful and lasting progress in combating transboundary pollution.

- (b) Stress the implementation of unprecedented emission reductions: Member States must commit to cutting 42% per cent off annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, phase out fossil fuels and drastically scale up renewable energy. Stronger international cooperation and support, including through enhanced climate finance, will be essential to deliver on the Paris Agreement.

EEG: While there is support to the call for major emission reductions, it's essential that the burden is shared fairly. Developing countries face distinct challenges in transitioning away from fossil fuels without compromising development goals. Saudi Arabia's Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) offers a balanced pathway that supports emission cuts while allowing flexibility. Additionally, with metal mining contributing about 10% of global GHG emissions, integrating mineral recycling—potentially covering up to 80% of future demand—can reduce emissions without placing extra pressure on resource-limited nations. We recommend incorporating circular resource use and equitable transition support into this action.

- (c) Recognizing the interconnectedness of biodiversity loss, desertification, and the impacts of climate change, we emphasize the need for integrated and coordinated approaches to address these challenges. Biodiversity loss accelerates land degradation and desertification, while climate change exacerbates these processes through rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events.

EEG: We fully support recognising the interconnectedness of biodiversity loss, desertification, and climate change. However, many current policies treat these issues separately, creating challenges for integrated solutions. To improve the implementation of coordinated approaches, we recommend referencing models such as the IPCC's (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) science-policy interface. Such frameworks effectively bridge science and policy, helping to address these environmental crises in a more holistic and actionable manner.

- (d) Encourage Member States to engage and mobilize the international community to enhance financial support to facilitate the implementation of agreed outcomes of the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (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) Foster synergies, cooperation and collaboration to advance the effective and inclusive implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other internationally agreed global commitments, inviting the governing bodies of MEAs, whilst respecting their independence and respective mandates, to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Assembly to promote integrated approaches and policy coherence.

EEG: This is a positive and necessary step in addressing global environmental challenges. At the same time, it is indeed challenging and needs to be done correctly as each MEA has its own set of priorities and mechanisms tailored to specific environmental issues. The independency of the MEAs might lead to an overlap, duplication of efforts and therefore inefficient use of resources. Striking a balance between collaboration and autonomy as well as mapping roles and responsibilities will be keys to maximising the impact of these agreements while avoiding inefficiency.

- (f) 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 and land degradation, pollution and waste action.

EEG: Multilateral forums like the Paris Agreement have demonstrated the potential of collaborative frameworks in tackling global environmental issues. However, the effectiveness of such cooperation often hinges on the ability to align the diverse priorities, capacities and contexts of different regions. A major challenge remains the limited operational detail in these frameworks, which can hinder the implementation of integrated and synergistic solutions across climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and pollution management. Strengthening regional forums with clear mandates and actionable coordination mechanisms is essential for advancing cohesive international environmental governance.

- (g) Advance circular economy principles 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 systemic shift towards sustainability, reducing environmental impact and strengthening long-term planetary resilience.

EEG: The effectiveness of this initiative will depend on clearly defined mechanisms to engage industries. It is important to specify how industries will be incentivised to adopt circular economy principles and what accountability frameworks will be established to monitor and ensure compliance. Transparent metrics, reporting obligations, and enforcement tools will be critical to drive meaningful, sector-wide transformation.

- (h) Encouraging sustainable solutions and environmental policies that is based on scientific research and innovations in monitoring, early warning and assessment systems in various 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.

EEG: It is important to ensure that these solutions are based on scientific research and are also tailored to local needs and conditions, ensuring that the benefits are equitably distributed and effectively support the capacity of vital sectors.

- (i) Call for the strengthening disaster risk governance to manage natural and manmade hazards by integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes, and investments at all levels, and calling for enhanced support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and countries facing specific challenges.

EEG: To maximise impact, it is crucial to establish clear legal and institutional frameworks that assign roles and responsibilities for disaster risk management across all sectors and levels of government, ensuring inclusive participation and coordination. Capacity building, funding and regular monitoring should be prioritised, and support for vulnerable countries must be tailored to their specific needs to ensure disaster risk reduction is both effective and sustainable.

- (j) 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, heavy rains, wildfires, heat waves, famines and flooding, leaving no one behind.

EEG: The focus on leaving no one behind is particularly important, as it underscores inclusivity that the 3rd Dialogue of the UAE JWTP is calling and advocating for. This is because vulnerable populations often bear the brunt of such disasters and need tailored support.

Moreover, this action aligns well with key international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which emphasizes integrated early warning and disaster risk management systems. Initiatives like Early Warnings for All (EW4All) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) partnership specifically focus on strengthening multi-hazard early warning capacities, particularly in vulnerable countries. Aligning efforts with these global agendas and ensuring coordination across sectors will be critical to advancing climate-resilient development and leaving no one behind.

- (k) Champion a just transition 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 inclusive and equitable, by reducing emissions across industrial, transportation, and residential sectors, this transition contributes to climate resilience while fostering sustainable economic growth.

EEG: Expecting this action to be both inclusive and equitable is challenging given the disparities between developed and developing countries. Developed countries often prioritise economic growth and employment, while developing countries focus more on environmental sustainability and social equality. A more balanced approach is needed to ensure both sectors can advance without compromising their unique priorities.

A critical question is how the Paris Agreement can be adjusted to better address both the developmental needs of developing countries and the sustainability goals of developed nations. Balancing these priorities is essential to ensuring that the transition to a low-carbon economy is both fair and effective for all nations.

- (l) 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. This includes fostering partnerships that enable access to new technologies, expertise, and resources, while strengthening local skills and institutions. By enhancing the capabilities of local communities and industries, developing countries can better drive their own growth and development.

EEG: Technology and knowledge transfer are essential for building climate resilience and align with the principle of inclusivity. However, a major barrier for many developing countries remains the lack of financial resources. Without adequate funding, even the most advanced technologies and training programmes cannot be effectively implemented. To ensure that technology transfer is not only accessible but also sustainable and adaptable to local contexts, it is crucial to explore strategies that empower developing countries as active participants. What mechanisms can be put in place to guarantee long-term support, local ownership, and financial viability of these initiatives?

- (m) 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, pollution and biodiversity loss, building capacity at national scale.

EEG: Collective action is crucial for addressing these challenges as no single country can solve these problems alone. However, it is important to focus on several points:

- 1) Inclusivity and assurance that this cooperation is equitable and that the needs of the most vulnerable countries are prioritised.
 - 2) Transparency in these partnerships to ensure that actions lead to tangible results.
- This decision is considered remarkable because of its alignment UNEP's MEA implementation programmes.

- (n) 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.

EEG: AI and digital technologies can greatly enhance resource optimisation, environmental monitoring and overall efficiency. However, it is crucial that these solutions are developed and deployed in ways that align with environmental responsibility to avoid unintended negative impacts.

- (o) 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 for responsible and ethical AI deployment.

EEG: This decision is timely, especially as the U.S. projects data center may consume 8% of national electricity by 2030, and Google recently reported a 48% rise in GHG emissions due to AI expansion. While Google disclosed its data, most major AI developers do not, this in itself highlights a critical need for stronger regulatory frameworks to improve transparency. Additionally, while ecosystem protection is essential, the decision should also recognise AI's potential sustainability benefits—such as optimising climate models—to ensure a balanced perspective. Referencing established frameworks like the OECD AI Principles would offer a strong foundation for responsible AI governance.

- (p) [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.][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.]
- (q) Call for ecosystem protection by strengthening nature-based solutions, ensuring sustainable water management, minimizing deforestation and forest degradation, and 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. Their preservation delivers numerous economic, social, and environmental co-benefits, reinforcing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

EEG: Substantial financial investment will be required to successfully implement these solutions as well as an active involvement of local communities. Moreover, we suggest rephrasing the action to include more active language and specificity—such as naming relevant SDGs or suggesting stakeholder responsibilities.

- (r) Invite member states to enhance the role of women, youth and civil society, 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.

EEG: It is crucial that the participation of women, youth, civil society and indigenous people is not just symbolic but results in real influence and decision-making power in environmental protection efforts.

- (s) Commit to cooperate to transition to sustainable food systems in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing with great urgency 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.

EEG: This call aligns with the 12th goal of the SDG's sustainable consumption. Yet, it is required to deliver a comprehensive, coordinated approach that is necessary to address the complex interplay of climate change, food production while also aligning the interests of various stakeholders, from farmers to policymakers.

- (t) 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 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.

EEG: The success of this alignment will depend on clear guidelines, a unified strategy across stakeholders as well as prioritising building local capacity to manage and deploy these funds effectively to avoid fragmentation. Moreover, this decision should not only focus on funding but also on ensuring that investments are directed towards high-impact, sustainable projects as this was requested by various developing countries.