

30 April 2025

H.E. ABDULLAH BIN ALI AL-AMRI

President of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman

via email: unep-sgb@un.org

Subject: Inputs to the Zero Draft Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its Seventh Session

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), we convey our appreciation for the opportunity to review and provide input on the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its Seventh Session (UNEA-7).

We welcome the draft's emphasis on multilateralism, environmental integrity, and collective global action. In the spirit of enhancing coherence across multilateral environmental agreements, and in alignment with language used in official decisions under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), we respectfully proposed the inclusion of three key elements:

1. **In Paragraph 4 (a).** The inclusion of the term “evidence-based” alongside “science-driven”, to underscore the importance of integrating scientific research with empirical knowledge in environmental resilience;
2. **In Paragraph 4 (r).** The use of ecosystem-based approaches, in accordance with language consistently used in CBD official decisions, to support integrated, adaptive, and holistic strategies for managing ecosystems and their services; and
3. **In Paragraph 4 (s).** The explicit mention of “local communities” as key actors and partners in environmental governance, implementation, and stewardship, acknowledging their indispensable role in achieving sustainable outcomes.

The above proposed inputs are reflected in the attached document, indicated in yellow highlights and enclosed in brackets, for your kind consideration.

As an accredited intergovernmental organisation observer of the UNEA, the ACB has been actively contributing to the UNEA by supporting the ASEAN Member States in their collaborative actions to achieve both climate and biodiversity goals. The UNEA holds significant importance for the ACB's work in advancing the value of biological diversity by highlighting the vital need for conservation, sustainable solutions, and effective responses to build a safer and more resilient planet.

We look forward to following the consultation process leading up to the UNEA-7 in December 2025.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Very truly yours,


MS. CLARISSA C. ARIDA
Acting Executive Director