



WIMUN NY 2025

STUDY GUIDE

UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY 2

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UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations
Environment
ProgrammeDist.: General
1 March 2024
Original: EnglishUnited Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Sixth session
High-level segment
Nairobi, 29 February 2024

Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session

Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

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 sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the urgent aim of taking effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation.
2. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1 as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and we take note of the recommendations of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda"³ and the international meeting entitled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity".
3. We acknowledge with a sense of great urgency the threats posed to sustainable development by global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, and their impacts on human health and the environment, which are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity.
4. We emphasize the importance of advancing integrated, science-based approaches, informed by the best available science, and the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities, in order to strengthen resilience to current, emerging and future challenges and promote global solidarity. We recall General Assembly resolution 74/390 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
5. We welcome the important agreed outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including the decision on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the

¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.1.B and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² General Assembly resolution 70/2.

³ A/75/862.

1 Something to think about...

Kenya is listed among the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) where temperatures are predicted to increase up to 2.5 degrees.

1 Definition....

Social inclusion is a fundamental principle that stresses the importance of creating societies where no one is excluded or marginalized based on factors such as poverty, gender, ethnicity, disability, age, religion, or other vulnerabilities and ensuring that all individuals and groups have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from economic, social, and political activities within the societies in which they live. Social inclusion is integral to achieving SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, but it is a principle that cuts across all SDGs.

1 Definition...

Sustainable actions are measures taken to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (intergenerational equity). The concept of sustainability was formulated at the first UN Conference for the Environment in 1972 and shaped in 1987 with the Brundtland Report ("Our Common Future"). One of the unique aspects of the SDGs is to extend the notion of social inclusion to include future generations that are not yet born.

1 Did you know that....

Extinction is now happening up to 1,000 to 10,000 times faster than the natural extinction rate because of pollution, climate change and overfishing?

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² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³ A/75/82.

1 Did you know that...

In 2022 6,343.2 Million Metric Tons of CO₂ equivalent were emitted (5% more than in 2021) mostly from the following sectors:

1. Transportation (28%) -> - 0.2% respected to 2021
2. Electric power (25%) > 0.4% respect to 2021
3. Industry (23%) -> - 0.2% respect to 2021
4. Commercial and Residential (13%) -> +10.4% respect to 2021
5. Agriculture (10%) -> - 0.8% respect to 2021

1 Something to think about...

Could you think of the multiple and interconnected effects of soil erosion and land degradation?

1 Did you know that...

Droughts bring the most risk to areas with high-pressure weather systems that are already prone to desertification. Among those we find: East Africa (where over 40 million people have been impacted by the drought since 2020)

1. Somalia -> is seeing the worst of the crisis, with over 200,000 already living in the most extremes of hunger
2. Kenya -> has experienced six record-low rainy seasons
3. Ethiopia -> has experienced six below-average rainy seasons affecting 31 million people

1 Did you know that...

1 billion hectares of forest have been cut down in the last 40 years (comparable to an area of the size of Europe)? If deforestation trend is not reversed, rainforests could disappear forever in 75 years and 160 days



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² General Assembly resolution 7025.

³ A/75/862.

2 Did you know that....

Historical point: The main principles of the Rio Declaration were:

1. Centrality of human beings for sustainable development;
2. States' responsibility to exploit resources without damaging them;
3. Intergenerational equity;
4. Centrality of low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs);
5. Compensation for the victims of pollution;
6. Cooperation and prevention.

2 Did you know that....

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 international goals to be reached from in 15 years become 2030.

Did you know that...

SDG n. 14 (life below water) has the highest number of ongoing actions (2859). Can you think of the reason why conserving oceans and having a secure access to water could be relevant for a country, especially a LMIC?

3 Did you know that....

There are 700 million people (or 10% of the global population) that live in extreme poverty (with less than \$1.90 a day) and that they are mainly distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa

There are 2.4 billion people experiencing moderate/severe food insecurity and 900 million people facing severe food insecurity

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² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³ A/75/962.

5 Did you know that...

The agreement on the loss and damage mechanism marked an important point of progress of the COP27 as it is a fund conceived to help the most vulnerable countries to tackle the unfolding effects of climate change. Something to think about: Can you think of different reasons why a country can be less resilient in front of extreme climatic events?

adverse effects of climate change, as well as the **Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan** at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including the agreed outcome of the first global stocktake and the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience to guide the achievement of the global goal on **adaptation**, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 5 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030; General Assembly resolution 77/161 of 14 December 2022 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including the Abidjan Call to address drought, desertification and land degradation; and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.⁷

6. We also welcome other recent, important multilateral achievements, including the adoption of the international legally binding 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; General Assembly resolutions 76/296 of 21 July 2022, entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, and 77/242 of 20 December 2022, entitled “2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”; the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, which generated significant momentum towards enhancing water-related action and political commitment at all levels; General Assembly resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023 on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028; the Three Basins Summit on Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forests, held in October 2023; the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; and the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. We recognize the need to strengthen **international cooperation on water**, at all levels, and we highlight the need for an integrated United Nations approach to water, in line with the forthcoming United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation. We restate our commitment to accelerating the implementation of the ocean-related targets of the 2030 Agenda and acknowledge the critical role played by the regional seas conventions and action plans in ocean governance.

7. We note with great concern the main findings contained in the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and we recognize that limiting global warming to 1.5°C, with no or limited overshoot, requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.

8. We also note with great concern the findings contained in the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and Their Control, adopted by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its tenth session, in which it was recognized that more than 3,500 of the 37,000 alien species introduced by human activity to regions and biomes around the world have become invasive and pose major global threats to nature, the economy, food security and human health. We note that invasive alien species play a key role in 60 per cent of global plant and animal extinctions, and we stress the importance of international cooperation, including international funding to support developing countries, in effectively managing invasive alien species in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss. We emphasize the importance of international cooperation and information exchange in combating illegal wildlife trade, which is often operated by transnational organizations and has deep impacts on biodiversity.

⁷ FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.27.

⁸ Document CSD/CP/15/L.25.

⁹ Available at <https://www.unccd.int/view/default/News/2024-04/Abidjan%20call%20to%20NG.pdf>.

¹⁰ Resolution W/1 of 29 Sept. 2023, annex 21, adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. See document SADC/ICCM/5/4.

5 Historical point...

The Implementation Plan resulting from the COP-28 in Sharm el-Sheikh stressed the following points:

1. Using the best available scientific data to implement effective climate policies;
2. Keeping the temperature rise below 1.5°C;
3. Emphasizing the need for clean energy, mitigation and adaptation;
4. Implementing monitoring systems and advanced technology to obtain major results.

5 Something to think about...

Adaptation and mitigation are two different phenomena: adaptation means finding new ways to live in a world characterized by extreme climatic events whereas mitigation means removing the causes of climate change and nuancing its effects. Something to think about: Can you think of the different outcomes of mitigation and adaptation considering the main features of your country?

6 Definition...

Water and sanitation are frequently referred to as “WASH”, which stands for water, sanitation and hygiene. According to the World Health Organization, WASH can be defined as a prerequisite for human health and well-being, but also as a contributor to the creation of resilient communities living in healthy environments

6 Something to think about...

Can you think of the possible positive outcomes of the international cooperation on water and also of the negative ones if cooperation is not achieved?

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⁴ FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.27.

⁵ Document CBD/COP/15/L.25.

⁶ Available at <https://www.unccd.int/view/default/Item/2024-04/Abdipen%20call%202023.pdf>.

⁷ Resolution W/1 of 29 Sept. 2023, annex II, adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. See document SA/CP/ICCM/5/4.

6 Did you know that...

Oceans are essential to preserve our planet, to fight against climate change and to guarantee a sustainable development since:

1. They absorb 90% of the excess heat caused by climate change;
2. They absorb 23% of human-caused CO₂ emissions;
3. They host some ecosystems (ex. mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrass meadows and corals) that can store much more carbon per unit area than forests;
4. They can be an incredible source of renewable energy (ex. off-shore wind and ocean energy derived from wind, water and tides)

6 Something to think about...

Our oceans are interconnected (currents, marine species, migratory flows, land and sea boundaries, pollution, unsustainable harvesting of commercial species, human activities etc.) which makes international cooperation essential. However, having a regional approach to ocean protection could be beneficial as well, can you think of the main reasons for it?

7 Did you know that...

2023 was the warmest calendar year in global temperature data records going back to 1850. Moreover, 2023 was 1.48°C warmer than the 1850-1900 pre-industrial level, arriving dangerously close to the Paris Agreement limit threshold of 1.5°C.

7 Did you know that...

Limiting warming to 1.5°C implies reaching net zero CO₂ emissions globally around 2050 with deep reductions in emissions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases, particularly methane

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⁴ FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.27.

⁵ Document CBD/COP/15/L.25.

⁶ Available at <https://www.unctad.org/ViewDefault.aspx?DocumentId=202304-04/Abidjan%20call%201%2019%20.pdf>.

⁷ Resolution V/1 of 29 Sept. 2023, annex 21, adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. See document SA/CP/ICCM.5/4.

8 Something to think about...

Can you think of the possible solutions to eradicate invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species?

8 Definition...

Alien species are animals, plants or microorganisms introduced to an area they could not have reached on their own as a result of human activities. Alien species are not always dangerous (ex. tomato or potatoes), but some can be detrimental to local species that have no defense against invasive alien species. As a consequence, invasive alien species reproduce rapidly and destroy the pre-existing check and balances of the attacked ecosystem

8 Did you know that...

Invasive alien species are the third cause of species extinction after habitat loss/changes and over-exploitation for commercial purposes

8 Something to think about...

Forests and coral reefs are home to entire ecosystems and they are fundamental to preserve vegetable and animal species. Can you think of what phenomena threaten forest and coral reefs the most and of what can be done to protect them?

8 Something to think about...

Poaching is aggravated by poverty, corruption, inadequate enforcement and political instability which can be better managed if there is a common and concerted effort by multiple actors

adverse effects of climate change, as well as the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan⁴ the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including the agreed outcome of the first global stocktake and the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation; the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵ to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030; General Assembly resolution 77/161 of 14 December 2022 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including the Abidjan Call to address drought, desertification and land degradation; and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.⁷

6. We also welcome other recent, important multilateral achievements, including the adoption of the international legally binding 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; General Assembly resolutions 76/296 of 21 July 2022, entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, and 77/242 of 20 December 2022, entitled “2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”; the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, which generated significant momentum towards enhancing water-related action and political commitment at all levels; General Assembly resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023 on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028; the Three Basins Summit on Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forests, held in October 2022; the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; and the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. We recognize the need to strengthen international cooperation on water, at all levels, and we highlight the need for an integrated United Nations approach to water in line with the forthcoming United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation. We restate our commitment to accelerating the implementation of the ocean-related targets of the 2030 Agenda and acknowledge the critical role played by the regional seas conventions and action plans in ocean governance.

7. We note with great concern the main findings contained in the synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and we recognize that limiting global warming to 1.5°C, with no or limited overshoot, requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.

8. We also note with great concern the findings contained in the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and Their Control, adopted by the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at its tenth session, in which it was recognized that more than 1,500 of the 37,000 alien species introduced by human activity to regions and biomes around the world have become invasive and pose major global threats to nature, the economy, food security and human health. We note that invasive alien species play a key role in 60 per cent of global plant and animal extinctions, and we stress the importance of international cooperation, including international funding to support developing countries, in effectively managing invasive alien species in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss. We emphasize the importance of international cooperation and information exchange in combating **illegal wildlife trade**, which is often operated by transnational organizations and has deep impacts on biodiversity.

⁴ FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.27.

⁵ Document CBD/COP/15/L.25.

⁶ Available at <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2024-04/Abidjan%20Call%20EN%20.pdf>.

⁷ Resolution V/1 of 29 Sept. 2023, annex II, adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session. See document SA/ICM/ICCM.5/4.

8 Did you know that...

The value of illegal wildlife trade is estimated between \$7 and \$23 billion per year making it one of the most lucrative illegal businesses usually often run by sophisticated criminal networks?

9. We are aware that in order to inspire impactful and collective action to tackle global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, we urgently need to reinforce action, global inclusiveness and solidarity and scale up means of implementation to support developing countries.

10. We are committed to urgently addressing the challenges before us through effective, co-sectoral, inclusive and sustainable actions, ensuring that such actions are science- and knowledge-based, taking into account traditional knowledge, and are gender sensitive, with the engagement of all relevant actors and partners, including civil society, academia, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the private and public sectors, as well as women and girls, children and young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other populations affected disproportionately by global environmental challenges and crises, leaving no one behind.

11. We welcome the Global Youth Environment Assembly held in Nairobi in February 2024 and its role in fostering active participation by young people in multilateral environmental governance.

12. We therefore decide, recognizing the importance of sustainable development as a priority, to take the following actions:

(a) Address climate change, in line with the objective and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement, and take action to achieve more sustainable outcomes and co-benefits, while advancing climate-resilient development and protecting our communities against disasters induced or exacerbated by climate change, such as droughts, heavy rains, wildfires, heatwaves, famines and flooding, which undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development;

(b) Halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, in line with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, by ensuring swift, inclusive and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with consideration of the **One Health approach**, among other **holistic approaches**, and put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet, including by conserving, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, including associated traditional knowledge, with the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities. We will do so by revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and aligning national targets with the Global Biodiversity Framework, while providing the necessary means of implementation, including under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, in recognition of the importance of sustainable biodiversity-based activities; implementing nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches that enhance biodiversity, in order to provide social, economic and environmental benefits for people; and advancing the discussion, in a timely manner, of policy options including the development of a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund, in accordance with decision 15/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) Support the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the United Nations Convention to Combat **Desertification** to halt biodiversity loss, combat desertification and land degradation, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, improve drought management, and promote sustainable practices, including the transition to sustainable agricultural production and fisheries and sustainable forest management;

(d) Cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition, within each country, that seeks to achieve an energy-secure future for all, while respecting local, national, regional and global needs and priorities, in a just, orderly and nationally determined manner, while considering equitable access to clean energy, securing the resilient development of sustainable energy infrastructure, and promoting a just transition based on effective social dialogue among all stakeholders;

(e) Deploy efforts to enhance the environmentally sustainable management of minerals and metals, including for a just and sustainable energy transition;

(f) Commit to continuing to engage constructively and actively and with a sense of urgency and solidarity in the ongoing negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, entitled "End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument", and to seeking to develop a fair, effective, balanced and ambitious international legally binding instrument, through the international negotiating committee, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024.

10 Something to think about...

How can traditional and local knowledge help fight environmental challenges and crises?

12b Something to think about...

Can you think of the main advantages of a holistic approach in fighting against worldwide problems?

12b Did you know that....

10% of GDP is lost every year because of desertification

12c Did you know that....

Meeting this goal by 2030 is crucial since in the last decade the international community was not able to not fully achieve any of the 20 Aichi biodiversity targets agreed in Japan in 2010 to slow the loss of the natural world

Historical point

The 2011-202 Aichi biodiversity targets were grouped into 5 strategic goals:

1. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity
2. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
3. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
4. Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
5. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

9. We are aware that in order to inspire impactful and collective action to tackle global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, we urgently need to reinforce action, global inclusiveness and solidarity and scale up means of implementation to support developing countries.

10. We are committed to urgently addressing the challenges before us through effective, co-sectoral, inclusive and sustainable actions, ensuring that such actions are science- and knowledge-based, taking into account traditional knowledge, and are gender sensitive, with the engagement of all relevant actors and partners, including civil society, academia, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the private and public sectors, as well as women and girls, children and young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other populations affected disproportionately by global environmental challenges and crises, leaving no one behind.

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(d) Cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition, within each country, that seeks to achieve an energy-secure future for all, while respecting local, national, regional and global needs and priorities, in a just, orderly and nationally determined manner, while considering equitable access to clean energy, securing the resilient development of sustainable energy infrastructure, and promoting a just transition based on effective social dialogue among all stakeholders;

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(f) Commit to continuing to engage constructively and actively and with a sense of urgency and solidarity in the ongoing negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022, entitled "End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument", and to seeking to develop a fair, effective, balanced and ambitious international legally binding instrument, through the international negotiating committee, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

12 Definition...

Officialized by the WHO in 2017, the One Health is an essential approach to:

1. Anticipate, prevent, detect and control diseases that spread between animals and humans
2. Ensure food safety
3. Prevent environment-related human and animal health threats, as well as combatting many other challenges
4. Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

12 Something to think about...

Energy transition is undeniably needed to fight against climate change, but it is also obstructed. Can you think of the main categories that could be against it and why?

(g) Enhance efforts and broader cooperation to address pollution, including by reducing atmospheric and water pollution, recognizing that pollution is a leading environmental risk factor for human health and that it has a negative impact on ecosystems and climate change, transcends national borders, and affects regions in different ways;

(h) Promote the outcomes of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, to achieve the vision, objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals, and resolve to deploy greater efforts towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through an integrated financing approach based on enhanced mainstreaming, greater industry involvement, and strengthened dedicated external financing, in order to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse health and environmental impacts, and accelerate the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, with due regard for national circumstances. We also strongly support the process for establishing a new intergovernmental science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, in accordance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/B of 2 March 2022 on the establishment of such a panel, and we call on Member States to engage constructively in the ongoing negotiations with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024;

(i) Incorporate climate, biodiversity, pollution, deforestation, land degradation, desertification, drought and water considerations into disaster risk management policies and actions in order to mitigate, adapt to and prevent the adverse impacts of natural and human-made hazards on human health and the environment; strengthen resilience to global risks and shocks; and promote a sustainable and inclusive recovery to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

(j) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, as well as persons with disabilities, in line with existing international commitments and obligations, to ensure their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership at all levels of environmental decision-making, and promote the collection and use of data disaggregated by gender and disability, as appropriate, and statistics across all policies and actions in our pursuit of inclusive and equitable solutions to global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, that leave no one behind.

13. We will leverage digital transformation as an enabling tool to support sustainable economies and societies by bridging existing digital divides, improving research, innovation and equal access to environmental information, harnessing emerging technologies, and monitoring how they develop for sustainability, as appropriate, while ensuring that digitalization remains inclusive, equitable and sustainable.

14. We commit to continuing to advocate a whole-of-society approach that can effectively empower societies at large, including women, children and young people and, in particular, those in vulnerable situations; accelerate research, innovation, education and behavioural change; and facilitate a just transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns. We also commit to moving towards the implementation of economic and environmental policies and models, including through increasing resource efficiency along value chains, along with other related approaches, such as sustainable and circular economies and sustainable lifestyles, taking into account the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030, and we call on Member States and Observer States of the United Nations to develop resource efficiency strategies and circular economy strategies.

15. We urge Member States and Observer States of the United Nations, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, private foundations, philanthropies, funds and other actors to promote further synergies and coherence in financing action to address the global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and to provide an enabling policy framework for resource mobilization, as called for at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2023. We will engage domestic, international and private sector actors in the rapid mobilization and scaling up of means of implementation, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development 8 while welcoming ongoing efforts to improve the international financial architecture and reform development financing.

16. We reiterate our recognition of the role of UNEP in strengthening the science-policy interface and undertaking strategic foresight and horizon scanning, in collaboration with existing science-policy platforms and panels, to improve the capacity of Member States and stakeholders, at all levels, to prioritize scientific research, stimulate and encourage decision-making and actions that can anticipate

* General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

12 Something to think about...

Can you think of the main advantages of a holistic approach in fighting against worldwide problems?

12 Something to think about...

10% of GDP is lost every year because of desertification?

12 Something to think about...

Energy transition is undeniably needed to fight climate change, but it is also obstructed. Can you think of the main categories that could be against it and why?

12 Something to think about...

Can you think of the advantages and of the disadvantages of making political measures/decisions binding?

12 Something to think about...

In order to carry out a vast and complete group of actions good governance and credible institutions are mandatory. Do you think that LMICs could follow this path of mitigation, adaptation and prevention or do you think that they could face issues, if so what could they be?

14 Definition...

A whole-of-society approach embraces both formal and informal institutions in seeking a generalized agreement across society about policy goals and the means to achieve them.

trends and risks, and prevent and respond to emerging cross-cutting environmental and health issues, with a particular focus on life cycle assessment of the environmental and sustainable development impacts of specific technologies, in order to make informed decisions.

17. We reaffirm the interdependence of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the need to address them in a comprehensive and integrated manner, in line with relevant international obligations and different national circumstances. We also reaffirm the role of UNEP and the importance of the recruitment by UNEP of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible in order to advance equitable geographical distribution and gender parity among its staff. We support the continuous strengthening of intergovernmental oversight and accountability of the UNEP secretariat, as provided for in the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNEP.⁹

18. We call for the reinforcement of UNEP and its catalytic role, both at its headquarters and at its regional offices, in strengthening regional cooperation, including through regional ministerial forums, and, while excluding politicization of environmental processes, in tackling context-specific environmental challenges. We recognize the growing demand for stronger and more coherent environmental support at the country level, including with regard to UNEP engagement with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams, to support mainstreaming of environmental issues into planning, programming and operations, and inclusion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in common country analyses and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and we call for the strengthening of UNEP within the United Nations development system at the regional and country levels.

19. We call on UNEP, as the leading global environmental authority within the United Nations, and echoing the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNEP, to **intensify its support and assistance to Member States**, including at the country level and in cooperation with secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, while providing equal attention to and prioritization of the implementation of all Environment Assembly resolutions and outcomes.

20. We look forward to the **Summit of the Future**, to be held in September 2024, as an opportunity to further advance our collective environmental commitments, and we urge all Member States and observer States of the United Nations, relevant non-governmental organizations, major groups and stakeholders, UNEP, the secretariats of the multilateral environment agreements and other relevant international organizations to advocate for the implementation of the relevant actions set out in the present declaration; ensure an ambitious outcome that will reinvigorate multilateral cooperation for environmental protection; stimulate the implementation of existing commitments; strengthen synergies and complementarities in the work and implementation of the multilateral environment agreements, within their independent and respective mandates; and decide on concrete solutions for a better tomorrow with greater effectiveness, inclusiveness and confidence. We therefore request the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to transmit the present declaration as the Environment Assembly's contribution to the General Assembly for consideration at the Summit of the Future.

21. In the spirit of reinvigorated multilateral and international cooperation, we invite the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements and relevant international organizations to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations Environment Assembly, as appropriate, to promote the present declaration and effectively and inclusively implement the actions and commitments contained therein.

19 Something to think about...

Can you think of the benefits of UNEP assistance for Member States?

20 Definition...

This summit represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance. It will:

1. Reaffirm existing commitments (including to the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Charter);
2. Encourage multilateralism;
3. Agree on solutions to new challenges;
4. Restore trust

⁹ UNEP/JEA.SS.1/4.