

Ministerial Outcome Document of the First Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegation gathered in the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 27 June 2014;

Recalled the General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972 establishing the United Nations Environment Programme, the Malmo Ministerial Declaration of May 31, 2000, the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the integrated and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment as reinforced in the Nusa Dua Declaration of February 2010;

From Stockholm 1972, through Rio 1992, the adoption of Agenda 21, Johannesburg 2002 and Rio +20 we have increased our understanding of the importance of the environment in the context of sustainable development, we have strengthened our institutions and committed to action.

Therefore, we reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document and all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. We also call for the implementation of section C on the Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development and paragraph 88 on strengthening and upgrading UNEP.

With this in mind, we emphasize the historic importance of convening the first universal session of this lead forum and decision making body to address global environmental challenges and provide overarching policy guidance within the UN-system, recognizing the fundamental role of UNEA in promoting the full integration and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and its potential to identify opportunities and advance solutions for the global environmental agenda,

We call on the international community, and reaffirm our commitment, to:

- Ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout sustainable development agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development;
- Achieve an ambitious, universal, implementable and realizable Post-2015 Development Agenda, that fully integrates the economic, social and

environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a coherent, holistic, comprehensive and balanced manner, including comprehensive and action oriented sustainable development goals with the aim of eradicating poverty, as well as for the protection of the environment and promotion of inclusive social and economic development in harmony with nature.

- Accelerate and support efforts for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency. We are also committed to accelerate actions, with the support of UNEP, to implement the 10YFP as a tool for action on SCP, including its section on Means of Implementation;
- Take action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products which has major economic, social and environmental impacts, contributes to damage to ecosystems and rural livelihoods, undermines good governance and the rule of law, and threatens national security;
- Undertake urgent actions to address climate change, a persistent crisis that affects all countries and undermines their ability, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development. This requires cooperation by all countries, in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions of the UNFCCC;
- Keep working towards the adoption of an ambitious outcome in the form of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties in 2015 in accordance with the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action;
- Ensure the full implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other environmental international and regional commitments in an effective and coordinated manner while promoting synergies amongst them. We also acknowledge their positive contribution to sustainable development;
- Reinforce efforts to halt biodiversity loss and combat desertification, drought, and land degradation, including through the implementation of existing environmental agreements and ensure that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide their services;
- Foster and encourage the development of genuine and durable partnerships to address environmental challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We also look forward to the discussion to take place at the third SIDS International Meeting in Samoa;

We underline the importance of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the

Assembly at its first meeting (Annex 1), and invite the international community to joint efforts, including those made by UNEP, in implementing such outcomes;

We welcome the richness of the debate, which took place in the margins of UNEA, and the contributions of academia and civil society experts, in various fora to our understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing us, including in the areas of the rule of law on the environment, gender, youth, role of legislators, and financing a green economy. We recommend continuing with this practice;

We commend the role that UNEP plays in facilitating intergovernmental negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements, the adoption of the Minamata Convention and highlight the important positive contribution of sound management of chemicals and waste for sustainable development;

We acknowledge that a strengthened science policy interface is of key importance to a more efficient and effective policy-making on sustainable development at all levels. We emphasize the role of UNEP in providing coherent evidence based knowledge and information on the state of global environment for decision-makers, including in the preparation of the Post 2015 development agenda;

Calls on the High Level Political Forum, ECOSOC, and the General Assembly, within their respective mandates, to give appropriate consideration to this outcome document and take its messages further, with a view to a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the UN and its Member States.