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Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2021

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/76/533/Add.7](#), para. 7)]

76/208. Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in its resolution [2997 \(XXVII\)](#) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997,¹ the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000² and the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,³

Reaffirming also its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled “The future we want”,⁴ and noting the follow-up on paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (h), of the outcome document, including through General Assembly resolution [67/213](#) of 21 December 2012,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* ([A/52/25](#)), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

² *Ibid., Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* ([A/55/25](#)), annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.

³ *Ibid., Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* ([A/65/25](#)), annex I, decision SS.XI/9.

⁴ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.



Recalling also the establishment of universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance and its responsiveness and accountability to Member States, the attendant change of its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the evolution in the periodicity of its sessions,

Recalling further its resolutions 68/215 of 20 December 2013, 69/223 of 19 December 2014, 71/231 of 21 December 2016, 73/260 of 22 December 2018 and 74/222 of 19 December 2019,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁵ and its principles,

Taking into account Agenda 21⁶ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,⁷

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁸ and the outcome document of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,⁹

Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,¹⁰

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement¹¹ and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United

⁵ 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.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁶ Ibid., annex II.

⁷ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁸ Resolution 60/1.

⁹ Resolution 68/6.

¹⁰ United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1/Corr.1, annex.

¹¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other relevant major intergovernmental outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in economic, social and environmental fields,

Welcoming the holding of the first part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Kunming, China, from 11 to 15 October 2021, under the theme proposed by the host “Ecological civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth”, welcoming also the holding of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021, and looking forward to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Egypt in November 2022,

Looking forward to the second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in 2022, and the adoption of an ambitious, balanced, practical, effective, robust and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda, the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP@50, to be held in Nairobi on 3 and 4 March 2022, the high-level meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to be held on 28 April 2022, the 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, to be held in 2022, the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, to be held on 2 and 3 June 2022, and 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, to be held in 2022,

Taking note of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, *inter alia*, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Committed also to enhancing the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment,

Recognizing the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which met under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York in 2020 and 2021

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

and undertook an in-depth review of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution [2997 \(XXVII\)](#), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, as well as the need to realize efficiency gains,

Reaffirming the commitments, as contained in the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014,¹³ *inter alia*, to ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout the sustainable development agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development,

Reiterating the need to develop and expand partnerships, including between Governments, the private sector, academia, relevant United Nations entities and programmes, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and individuals,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Noting the decision of the United Nations Environment Assembly to hold its fifth session in two parts, comprising an online meeting, held on 22 and 23 February 2021, and a resumed in-person meeting, to be held from 28 February to 2 March 2022, owing to the exceptional circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the online meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on 22 and 23 February 2021, also welcomes the decisions of the session, including on the medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023,¹⁴ takes note of the outcome message¹⁵ and the summary of key messages from the leadership dialogue,¹⁶ and looks forward to the convening of the resumed meeting of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 28 February to 2 March 2022;

2. *Reiterates* the ministerial declaration entitled “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”,¹⁷ adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment

¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/69/25)*, annex, resolution 1/1.

¹⁴ *Ibid., Seventy-sixth session, Supplement No. 25 (A/76/25)*, annex I.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II.

¹⁶ [UNEP/EA.5/25](#), annex III.

¹⁷ [UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1](#).

Programme at its fourth session, and reaffirms that embracing innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production are important elements for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁸ and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* Member States to advance innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, in line with resolution 4/1 of 15 March 2019 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;¹⁹

4. *Invites* the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and other relevant United Nations entities to support the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the development of a global environmental data strategy by 2025, as referred to in the ministerial declaration adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session;

5. *Invites* Member States and all relevant United Nations bodies and partners to contribute to the delivery of the implementation plan “Towards a pollution-free planet” as set out in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/21 of 15 March 2019;²⁰

6. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of the United Nations Environment Assembly to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner, as reflected in its resolutions 2/5 of 27 May 2016²¹ and 3/3 of 6 December 2017²² on the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

7. *Commends* the President and the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council for supporting and facilitating the effective integration of the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly into the preparation, work and proceedings of, and the participation of the President of the Environment Assembly in, the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;

8. *Encourages* the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to continue to convey the main messages agreed upon by the Environment Assembly at its sessions during the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, taking into account the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, as well as General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#) of 9 July 2013 and [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016;

9. *Welcomes* the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the lead-up, inputs and meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2020 and 2021, and looks forward to further contributions to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

10. *Reiterates* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard calls for the continued

¹⁸ Resolution [70/1](#).

¹⁹ [UNEP/EA.4/Res.1](#).

²⁰ [UNEP/EA.4/Res.21](#).

²¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* ([A/71/25](#)), annex, resolution 2/5.

²² [UNEP/EA.3/Res.3](#).

and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building adopted by the Programme;

11. *Recalls* the sixth flagship *Global Environment Outlook* report and its summary for policymakers, which was reviewed and approved by Member States from 21 to 24 January 2019 and welcomed with appreciation by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, and reiterates the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically based and policy-relevant global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels;

12. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the International Resource Panel, including through its report, *Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want*;

13. *Expresses concern* about the findings of relevant global environmental assessments which indicate that, despite the availability of solutions to our common environmental challenges, our planet is increasingly polluted, affected by the adverse effects of climate change, quickly losing its biodiversity and experiencing widespread environmental degradation, and recalls the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to promote greater coherence and coordination of global assessments undertaken within the United Nations system;²³

14. *Recognizes* the devastating global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created new and serious health, socioeconomic and environmental challenges, compounded existing ones, especially in developing countries, and undermined our common efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the 2030 Agenda, and urges support for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery that protects the planet, stimulates sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable economic models and the promotion of life-cycle approaches, promotes the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, revitalizes our economies and creates decent and sustainable jobs and makes real progress in eradicating poverty, while enhancing our future resilience to similar challenges;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the preparations to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972,²⁴ looks forward to the special session to commemorate UNEP@50, to be held in Nairobi on 3 and 4 March 2022, decides that UNEP@50 will be the appropriate United Nations high-level meeting for the adoption of the political declaration pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/333](#) of 30 August 2019, encourages participation at the highest possible level, requests the Secretary-General to support the commemoration, and encourages Member States and other donors in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions, generously and as soon as possible, for the preparation of the event and to support the participation of developing countries;

16. *Expresses concern* about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate;

²³ [UNEP/EA.4/Res.23](#), para. 10.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

17. *Notes* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide options to secure the participation of developing countries in the Environment Assembly;²⁵

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”.

*54th plenary meeting
17 December 2021*

²⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/69/25)*, annex, resolution 1/15.