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 at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi on 26 and 27 June 2014:

*Recall* General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 establishing the United Nations Environment Programme, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000, the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, declaring the United Nations Environment Programme to be 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;

*Recall* also that, from the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, through the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the adoption of Agenda 21, the adoption of the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (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 we have committed ourselves to action;

*Reaffirm*, therefore, our commitment to the full implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document, “The future we want”, and all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and call for the implementation of section C of “The future we want”, on the environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development, and paragraph 88, on strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme;

*Emphasize*, with the foregoing in mind, 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 United Nations system, recognizing the fundamental role of the Environment Assembly 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;

*Call on* the international community, and reaffirm our commitment:

- 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;
- To 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, protecting the environment and promoting inclusive social and economic development in harmony with nature;
- To accelerate and support efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency, and to accelerate actions, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns as a tool for action on sustainable consumption and production, including its section on means of implementation;
- To 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;
To 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, which requires cooperation by all countries, in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

To continue to work towards the adoption in 2015 of an ambitious outcome in the form of a protocol, other legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Framework Convention on Climate Change applicable to all parties in accordance with the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action;

To ensure the full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other international and regional environmental commitments in an effective and coordinated manner while promoting synergies among them, acknowledging their positive contribution to sustainable development;

To reinforce efforts to halt biodiversity loss and combat desertification, drought and land degradation, including through the implementation of existing environmental agreements, and to ensure that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide their services;

To foster and encourage the development of genuine and durable partnerships to address environmental challenges faced by small island developing States, looking forward to the discussion that will take place at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in September 2014;

*Underline* the importance of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its first session (annex) and invite the international community to join efforts, including those made by the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement such outcomes;

*Welcome* the richness of the debate that took place in the margins of the first session of the Environment Assembly and the contributions of the academic community and civil society experts in various forums to our understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing us, including with regard to the rule of law on the environment, gender, youth, the role of legislators and financing a green economy, and recommend the continuation of this practice;

*Commend* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating intergovernmental negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements, including the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and highlight the important positive contribution of the sound management of chemicals and waste to sustainable development;

*Acknowledge* that a strengthened science-policy interface is of key importance to more efficient and effective policy-making on sustainable development at all levels and emphasize the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing coherent evidence-based knowledge and information on the state of the global environment for decision makers, including in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda;

*Call on* the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, within their respective mandates, to give appropriate consideration to the present outcome document and to take its messages further with a view to the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the United Nations and its Member States.
Annex: Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP at its first session (23 – 27 June 2014)

- Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality
- Science-policy interface
- Marine plastic debris and microplastics
- Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements
- Ecosystem-based adaptation
- Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- Coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group
- Illegal trade in wildlife
- Chemicals and wastes