

Zero Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”

In South America, young mothers like Maria handle raw mercury in artisan gold mines, because it is the only way to make a living. In North America, families like the Kellogg's relocate to areas where their children can play outside without fear of an asthma attack. In Europe, schools like Fatima Gunic hoist flags in the playground to monitor air pollution. In Africa, communities like Ogoniland try to survive in land saturated by oil pollution. In the Middle East, residents in places like Khuzestan must breathe through the growing number of sand and dust storms swallowing their homes and closing their schools. And in Asia, people like 13 year old Lim Seong-joon are crippled because of chemicals being used incorrectly. In fact, during the next hour, another 1,500 people around the world will needlessly die from environmental causes. Yet, with our collective commitment and resources focused on attaining the SDGs, we truly have the power to prevent this pollution, save lives and attain not only a Pollution-Free Planet but a Health Promoting Planet.

We, the world's ministers of environment, gathered for the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, declare that this cannot and will not continue. We commit to securing a pollution free future for our people and planet. And we commit to working with every possible stakeholder to rapidly explore and implement every possible solution to end the pollution of our air, soil, freshwater and oceans.

As the representatives of 193 nations, we believe that, regardless of gender or culture, faith or wealth, no child should die from dirty water or poor hygiene. Yet today, nearly 2,000 children below the age of five will do just that. No one should choke because they walk down a street or cook a hot meal in their home. Yet every day, 9 out of 10 of us will continue to breathe air that is unsafe, including many children and sufferers of asthma, heart disease and 20,000 people will die because of it. No community should be contaminated by hazardous chemicals and waste. Yet of the 130,000 chemicals on the market, only a fraction is properly tested, labelled or tracked. No ecosystem should be so damaged by consumer choices that it ceases to function properly. Yet every year, we dump up to 13 million tonnes of plastic in our oceans and 50 million tonnes of electronic waste on our land. No one should be left behind as we strive to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or other international agreements. Yet it is still the poorest and most vulnerable people in society including women, children and the elderly, who are disproportionately affected; often paying the price for the action of the wealthiest.

This Assembly agrees that everyone on this planet has an equal right to live in a clean environment, with access to safe water, food and air. These are the most precious of natural resources. Any threat to them is a threat to our health, our society, our economy, our security and our very survival. Pollution is not new, but with the population expected to reach 10 billion people by 2050, these self-imposed threats have never been greater or more preventable.

Comment [GJ1]: Put where they lived and where they now live to put in context, ie from a busy city to the countryside.. I find this example too optimistic, the majority of kids living in polluted LA or NY cant relocate to a new area without bad air pollution. Maybe change to say families like the Kellog's who live in a city with frequent smog attacks, have to be check public alerts to see when their children can play outside without fear of an asthma attack.
KELLOGS is a breakfast cereal in the US, so possibly change to a different last name.

Comment [GJ2]:

Comment [GJ3]: Where in Europe ? Seems kind of wide. To give more context, could we say hoist flags in the playground to monitor air pollutin from polluting traffic

Comment [GJ4]: I would like to include some new engagement groups who are essential in obatingin a pollution free planet, such as those with NCD (Non communicable Diseases)

However, we also agree that with leadership, determination, collaboration, knowledge and technology, our options for turning these threats into opportunities are increasing just as fast. The transition to a pollution free planet is not only achievable, but can help tackle poverty, improve health, reduce global warming, build peace, protect human rights, create jobs and drive economic growth. We must recapture and reinvest the 300 tonnes of gold buried in electronic waste every year; the \$100 billion in plastic packaging being thrown away; the \$1 trillion economic loss from exposing children to lead in paint; the 163 billion Euro annual costs of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in the European Union, and the \$5 trillion spent on healthcare because of air pollution. **G20 countries spent \$ 444 billion on oil, gas and coal subsidies and estimates show that leads to \$2.76 trillion in health costs, which could be used to increase renewable energy and go a long way in achieving universal health care access for all.** To do so, we must dramatically scale up and accelerate the solutions that countries, cities, businesses and individual citizens are already using.

Therefore, we acknowledge the magnitude of threats and opportunities reported in *Towards a Pollution Free Planet* serve and commit to preventing, mitigating and managing pollution in every form by:

- Supporting the development, collation and use of reliable scientific, independent data. This includes better multidisciplinary indicators; more efficient data gathering and monitoring and an increase in awareness raising and knowledge sharing. This will promote evidence based decision making in the public and private sectors and effective standard setting by all stakeholders. Greater access to information and public participation in decision-making processes to increase availability of information;. This will promote evidence based decision making in the public and private sectors, effective standard setting by all stakeholders and greater participation by citizens from all walks of life.
- Targeting pollutants with focused environmental agreements and tailored action. This will be achieved in two ways. Either by developing global policy to prevent, reduce and control pollutants where the science is clear, but actions do not yet exist. **Or by increasing research on pollutants where the impact is not yet clear.**
- Cultivating economic productivity and job creation by using incentives to increase innovation and the uptake of new technology. This make it easier for producers and consumers to rethink, reuse, recycle, recover and remake any products, materials and services and eliminate toxic materials from the start.
- Nurturing integrated urban development to create more livable villages, towns and cities and buildings, which thrive in harmony with the surrounding environment. This includes accelerating the sound management of chemicals and waste, encouraging responsible lifestyle choices, prioritizing access to clean energy and transport, and leveraging the power of big data.

Comment [GJ5]: New HEAL global report (July 27th published) provides many good examples of FFS & health. I think this is an important ingredient to moving faster toward the healthy planet we want & need... Here is the link to the report & materials <http://www.env-health.org/resources/press-releases/article/world-governments-make-citizens>

Comment [GJ6]: When the impact is not yet clear, yet signs of potential harm are evident the precautionary principle and approach should be adopted, ie minimize exposures while increasing research.

- Promoting fiscal incentives to stimulate systemic and behavioural changes. This includes internalising the true cost of pollution in financial decisions and redirecting investments from the short-term profits of polluting activities to the more sustainable profits of greener alternatives and committing to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies by 2020 or by 2025 at the very latest for developing countries

- Strengthening and enforcing more integrated policies, regulations and laws. This will be achieved by supporting institutions and building capacity; bolstering government and community monitoring and accountability systems; and sharing best practices, standards, policy instruments and tools.

- Creating and expanding partnerships across the United Nations, as well as with governments, the private sector, academia, civil society including the health sector and health professionals and individual citizens, particularly those who live in polluted areas and suffer directly health impacts such as factory and industrial workers, pediatricians, asthma, cancer, heart patients as well as those most vulnerable such as children, pregnant women and older people, urban slum dwellers. This includes emphasizing enormous potential of partnerships between different stakeholders among developing nations. As ministers of the environment, we recognize that we are accountable for delivering on those commitments. As just a few of the 7.5 billion people living here, we urge our fellow citizens to recognize that every one of us is responsible for making that happen. And, as mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, parents and grandparents, friends, colleagues, neighbours and communities, we cannot overstate the need to make it happen quickly. In the time it has taken you to read this declaration, some 200 people have died from environmentally modifiable factors; nearly half of that just from breathing.

Comment [GJ7]: I am adding these new groups because one thing I think this declaration should do it reach out to NEW groups to engage and to name those so these groups can then identify, increase participation, buy-in of the important UNEA work that needs to be done to move forward on a pollution free planet.

Therefore, we warmly welcome the resolutions adopted at the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. We applaud the many pledges from diverse stakeholders that address critical environmental challenges. And we restate our commitment to work towards a pollution free planet for present and future generations so that they may build on our commitment to create a health enhancing, equitable and sustainable planet