

9/1/2019

Dear UN Environment Secretariat,

I hope this email finds you well.

Thank you very much for sharing the first full draft of the Ministerial Declaration ahead of the fourth UN Environment Assembly in March. It is hugely appreciated to receive such constant, open and punctual communications from your team ahead of the Assembly, so we thank you for that and your continued hard work in the run up to March.

Please find below our small comments on the first full draft, which I hope can be shared with Member States and incorporated into the second full draft ahead of the negotiations that will take place in early February during the upcoming CPR meeting.

In regards to the two points below that are included in the declaration;

(j) *We will support* the efforts to develop global products sustainability and circularity criteria by 2025 and we agree to set ambitious national targets on the use of sustainable public procurements to stimulate demand for environmentally sound products, processes and services;

(k) *We encourage* the disclosure of product information to consumers and communities and we will promote the development of solutions, with special emphasis on digital solutions, to increase transparency in product chains;

Cruelty Free International believes that Member States have a duty and responsibility to agree on language within the ministerial declaration that goes beyond offering support and encouragement for two pivotal efforts needed to address global over-consumption and mass production patterns. If we are to truly achieve SCP then we will need transformative change that brings people together with it from all corners of society. Consumers and businesses are key to this, and governments have a responsibility to enact a framework in which they are driven to act more sustainably with more knowledge on the actions they can take which will help reduce their environmental impact. The Fourth UN Environment Assembly comes at a crucial time. There is a real and urgent need for action if we are to prevent the worst effects of our over consumption on the planet and its biodiversity systems. We hope that Member States will recognise this urgency to take bold and meaningful steps at the Assembly to help address the large and complex issues we are facing as a planet today.

We believe the two points should be amended to reflect the ambition of ministers at the Assembly and the urgency of action needed:

(j) We *will improve and help foster global* efforts to develop global products sustainability and circularity criteria by 2025 and we agree to set ambitious national targets on the use of sustainable public procurements to stimulate demand for environmentally sound products, processes and services;

(k) We *will invest in and partner with stakeholders to enhance* the disclosure of product information to consumers and communities and we will promote the development of solutions, with special emphasis on digital solutions, to increase transparency in product chains;

Kind regards,

**Jack McQuibban**

**Public Affairs Adviser**

**Cruelty Free International**