



**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

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**November 26, 2018**

Jorge Laguna-Celis  
Secretary of Governing Bodies  
UN Environment Programme  
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri  
PO Box 30552, 00100  
Nairobi, Kenya


Dear Laguna-Celis,

**Re: UNEA4 Ministerial Declaration zero-Draft**

Reference is made to your e-mail (*Ref: Committee No: 00270(2018)*) dated October 21, 2018 on the subject at caption.

Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to submit the enclosed comments on the zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration for UNEA 4 for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Permanent Secretary

**PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT**



## COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION FOR THE 4TH SESSION OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

In the review of the Draft of the Ministerial Declaration of the UN Environment Assembly “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”, the Environmental Policy and Planning Division notes the following:

### General Comments:

- The Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production” demonstrates that worldwide trends of unsustainable patterns of consumption has been recognised as one of the causative agents of great detriment to the global environment.
- Overall, the contents of the declaration document appears solid, but where it regards setting of targets, there is ambiguity and it is unclear who will be responsible for actually making these goals a reality.

### Specific Comments:

Section	Comments
On the Main Priority 2	The word ‘Decouple’ appears ambiguously and can mean many things to many people if left undefined. It is recommended that it be clarified as it is not clearly stated from what explicitly should there be decoupling.
On the Main Priority 2 (c)	Building resilience to the impacts of climate change (extreme weather events, water scarcity especially) should also be a key factor taken into account in the sustainable land management process and this should be mentioned within this point.
On the Main Priority 2 (d)	Agricultural practices should also look towards building resilience to the impacts of climate change (extreme weather events, water scarcity especially) and a changing climate, e.g. warmer temperatures and wide variance in precipitation which may affect yield of traditional crops/farming techniques. These factors should also be taken into account within this section.
On the Main Priority 2 (h)	The ‘X%’ referred to still has to be clearly determined. There is no mention as to who has this responsibility, when this implementation will take place and who will take charge of the monitoring of this target.
On the Main Priority 2 (l)	Same point as above (On the Main Priority 2 (h))
On the Main Priority 2 (m)	A timeline should be stipulated for the phase out environmentally harmful subsidies.