

Dear Ado,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to highlight some of our priorities for the Ministerial declaration the other day. We think you have come a long way in developing an interesting and significant draft declaration, and are happy with very much of it.

Allow us to share some proposals that we think would make it even stronger. The most important point is for the declaration to actually reflect the most important results from the UNEA-4 negotiations. Where results are clear and concrete, they should be entered into the declaration.

With regards to Art 4 g), we are satisfied with seeing environment and security expressed, and will not lend our support to weakening of it. Equally, the challenges related to handling of chemicals and dangerous substances are well formulated in 4a and b, and we will defend its place here. However, we would like to see included a reference to new and more effective monitoring technologies (*we think of satellites, environmental DNA, drones etc*), as well as a reference to crimes with a significant impact on the environment, as follows;

(g) *We will improve* environmental monitoring systems, including **of air and water quality, deforestation, marine litter, crimes with a significant impact on the environment** and environmental security, and we *support* **the implementation of new and more effective monitoring technologies**, the development of national environmental data management capacities; we *will also promote* the use of data analysis models to support evidence-based decision making at all levels and work towards ensuring transparency of and open access to environmental data;

With regard to Art 4 h) and i), our strong and consistent message is to keep a place here for what is finally agreed on waste management systems and on marine plastic litter during UNEA4. Text of these paras could be placed in brackets or otherwise marked so as to remind delegations about the work that are to be done on these issues, and awaiting decision. It is too simple to speak about phasing out of single use plastics before 2025 when so much more is needed, and we have a strong possibility to make progress on more than that with regard to waste and plastics during this UNEA, an opportunity that should not be missed. Sri Lanka has language suggestions on this very issue which we expect will get broad support.

Regarding Art 7:

We find it of paramount importance and relevance that ministers through the declaration express their concern with the findings of the various scientific reports that underpin the work of UN Environment programme. We are glad of the general expression of this concern in para 3. And do not propose to change that. However, as there is a US resolution pertaining to the assessments situation, it would be natural to have a final entry built on the results of the deliberations about that resolution in article 7. We can otherwise risk conflicting signals in declaration and resolutions, and one could serve to weaken the other. (This would be in line with our point about marine litter; it would be strange to negotiate a declaration as if in isolation of what goes on in the same meeting).

A new start to the article 7 could read as follows before going on with the rest of the para as it is now:

- *Having noted with concern the findings of the Global Environment Outlook, the Global Chemicals Outlook, The Global Resource Outlook and the IPCC's 1,5 degree report, it has been the focus of our discussions at UNEA-4 to identify and multiply appropriate solutions to*

*be able to make the necessary transformational shift together. We invite the Executive director to --- etc*

We furthermore find that this expression about the need for a transformational shift, considering its centrality in the post 2020-process, should be entered into para 6 as well, and that it in this connection is correct to refer to THE global framework for biodiversity (while there are other more specialized ones, Ramsar etc, they are not what we want to draw attention to here now, so avoid the plural form):

*Art 6. the crucial role of overarching policy frameworks and the importance of **transformational change and a** coherent and robust approach to follow up processes and we commit to develop **an ambitious post 2020 global framework**s for biodiversity, in this regard we welcome the outcomes of the UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El Sheikh in 2018 and for the sound management of chemicals and waste with a corresponding approach to be considered at the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly;*

We find the reference to chemicals in para 6 satisfactory, and could also support strengthening it, but not support weakening it.

We look forward to our further constructive discussions on the ministerial declaration.

Sincere regards

Guri



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