



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Minister

Oslo, 8 July 2019

Letter to the members of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to share with you the results from a productive first meeting of the Bureau of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, which took place in Trondheim, Norway on 3 July 2019. My colleagues in the Bureau and those representing the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives came to the meeting prepared and motivated, and I thank them for their constructive approach and important contributions.

As you will see in the attached Chair's Summary from the meeting, all members of the Bureau reaffirmed their strong commitment to a successful fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly, which will take place in Nairobi in February 2021. We agreed that the Assembly should advance the global environmental agenda, building upon the outcomes of previous Assembly meetings and as part of a broader engagement to address global environmental challenges. There was also broad support to ensure an action-oriented Assembly that all member states feel ownership of, and which ensures the active engagement and participation of all interested stakeholders. A roadmap was agreed at the meeting, which outlines the key meetings and milestones on the way to the fifth Assembly.

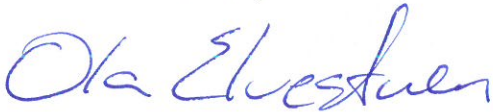
Importantly, the meeting also agreed to set in motion a wide consultation process to define a theme for the next Assembly, with the aim to ensure broad support for a politically relevant and focused theme that can pave the way for concrete and action-oriented outcomes that will give momentum to our actions to turn the tide on current trajectories. To this end, I am pleased to share for further consideration the attached “thought starter”, which outlines three possible thematic areas that received general support by the members of the Bureau.

I encourage all member states through their regional groups to widely consult on the three thematic areas, with a view to take a decision on the theme for UNEA-5 based on broad consensus by December 2019, as mandated by Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 “Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly”. I also warmly welcome views from the Major Groups and other stakeholders on this topic. I appreciate the assistance of my colleagues in the Bureau and in particular the Committee of Permanent Representatives in ensuring an inclusive and transparent dialogue around a theme.

Based on the outcome of this consultation process, the Bureau of the Assembly will meet jointly with the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in early December, to take a final decision on the theme for UNEA-5.

I look forward to a fruitful and inclusive consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ola Elvestuen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ola Elvestuen