

## UNEA Ministerial Declaration Inputs from the Government of Mexico

### 1. What would you, as government/organization/stakeholder, welcome as the most important elements and/or key messages from the ministers in the declaration to address the theme in an impactful manner?

- Recognize the alarming situation of global biodiversity loss presented in the latest IPBES “*Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*”, and the **urgency to take effective and innovative measures** to promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources. A healthy environment is a fundamental condition for sustainable development.
- Highlight the importance of the adoption and effective implementation of the new **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD**, which will be the most important multilateral environmental agreement integrating the actions on **different issues for the next decade**, in line with the SDGs. For this, the effective coordination of the different UNEP conventions is key, including the Cluster of Chemical Conventions.
- The **COVID-19 pandemic highlights the close relationship between human health** and the need to maintain healthy ecosystems and wild populations.
- This sanitary emergency points out the imperative need to strengthen the integration of actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity **in other sectors beyond the environmental ministries**, with goals and indicators, as a means for achieving sustainable development.
- We must commit to promote an **inclusive recovery, guaranteeing a respectful representation of the interests of vulnerable groups**, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities as well as girls and women.
- It is time for **innovative mechanisms and synergies between multilateral environmental agreements**. For example, **Nature Based Solutions** need to be ranked as priority to reshape our new reality, understanding the potential benefits they hold for different agendas, while ensuring that they do not have unintended harmful consequences for other agendas, such as biodiversity.
- We are all accountable for using the best science available. For example, the **High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy** has led the talk, by facilitating Blue Papers on scientific knowledge towards a **sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources**.

### 1. How can the Environment Assembly, make a significant contribution to Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at a global scale? In doing so, you may take into account the preparation for the meeting, its

**conduct and follow up, as well as its relationship to other meetings and processes.**

- The Assembly must make a strong call to countries, inviting them to **place the environment at the center** of their plans to reactivate their economies. Also, to direct their investments towards sectors that, in addition to **reactivating the economy** and creating jobs, focus on strategies that contribute to transitioning towards sustainability.
- Encourage countries to analyze and **learn from the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic**, in order to transition to more sustainable economies. New experiences, such as reducing daily mobility, promoting remote working and electronic commerce, whose effects in reducing pollutant and GHG emissions have been widely disseminated, can be a **good foundation for developing new strategies** and policies that improve sustainability and human health in urban settings.
- **Cooperation is essential.** 'Every-man for himself' strategies in the international arena would lead us back to similar scenarios to the COVID-19 crisis. Synergies will provide the strength we need to cope with the upcoming challenges. Promoting **dialogue and the inclusion of multicultural conceptions and traditional knowledge** among nations for the management of forests, water, soil, biodiversity and natural resources, will also prove key. We must strengthen consultation processes with **indigenous peoples** and other mechanisms of citizen participation.
- Promote collaboration and alliances in the protection of **coastal and marine ecosystems** against activities carried out on land which in many cases represent important sources of pollution; as well as the **exchange of information**, practical experiences and scientific and technical knowledge on the protection of all ecosystems.