



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF  
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

*The Minister*

Oslo, 29 June 2020

Dear colleagues,

I would first and foremost like to give a heartfelt thanks to both Member States and stakeholders alike for your feedback to my invitation for initial inputs to the ministerial declaration for the fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA5). We received over 90 inputs in total, including 42 from stakeholders and inputs on behalf of well over 80 member states. All inputs received so far are available at the dedicated website:

<https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/inputs-ministerial-declaration-unea-5>.

We recently concluded a successful preparatory retreat with members of the bureaux of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme. There was resounding agreement that the Environment Assembly has an even more important role now in terms of strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and can be a unique opportunity to contribute to a global green recovery. The need for strengthened multilateral cooperation and a strong UN Environment Programme in a post-pandemic world was clear. I invite you to consult the summary of our retreat which is available on the UNEP events webpage.

Our preparatory retreat benefited from the rich engagement by major groups and stakeholders. They held their consultation virtually on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. Those consultations brought together over 470 participants and yielded important messages which were communicated to the bureaux.

In addition, the Act #ForNature Global Online Forum that took place the 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> of June was also truly inspiring. In total, close to 3000 people from all over the world followed and participated in the Forum. This platform allowed a broad range of actors to learn about and get involved in the preparations for the Environment assembly. There were very interesting discussions and questions and I would encourage those who were not able to participate to watch the thematic sessions available at the Assembly website:

<https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/act-for-nature-forum>.

Such a level of engagement underscores the interest and commitment to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As foreseen in my letter, dated 24 April 2020, attached is an updated draft outline document for our ministerial declaration which I hope will be a useful basis for further dialogue. The draft outline document was presented for initial feedback at the Joint Preparatory Retreat.

This is but our first step, and there will be more opportunities for all to engage further, including those who were not able to respond with inputs to the ministerial declaration in this round.

I received a broad range of good substantive suggestions on elements for the ministerial declaration which I have taken note of. The outline which I share with you introduces three transformative areas for joint and positive action from ministers at the Environment Assembly. The content of the text is phrased in more general terms at this stage.

I now wish to invite you to share with me your proposals on how to further develop the draft outline document on the theme for the UN Environment Assembly "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable development Goals". **Your inputs are welcome through the email addresses [postmottak@kld.dep.no](mailto:postmottak@kld.dep.no) and [unep-sgb@un.org](mailto:unep-sgb@un.org), preferably before 14th of August 2020.** Based on your input, I aim to develop a new version for further consultations in September.

In your submissions I invite you to identify and prioritise concrete measures to jointly strengthen actions for nature as we develop a focused and impactful ministerial declaration for the next Environment Assembly. In doing so, we also need to take into account other critical environmental meetings in 2021 and how the environmental assembly also can best contribute to ambitious outcomes from these meetings.

Strengthening actions for nature is fundamental for us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and rebuild a resilient and sustainable post-pandemic world. This is a task we can only do together.

Yours sincerely



Sveinung Rotevatn