



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Minister

Oslo, 29 June 2020

Dear colleagues,

I would first and foremost like to give heartfelt thanks to Member States and major groups and stakeholders alike for your response to my invitation for initial input for the preparation of the ministerial declaration for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5). We received a total of more than 90 responses, including input from 42 stakeholders and well over 80 Member States. All input received thus far is 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 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 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 that the fifth session of the Assembly can be a unique opportunity to contribute to a global green recovery. In a post-pandemic world, the need for strengthened multilateral cooperation and a strong UNEP is clear. I invite you to consult the summary of our retreat, which is available on the UNEP events web page.

Our preparatory retreat benefited from rich engagement by major groups and stakeholders. Those consultations, held online on 7 June, brought together more than 470 participants and yielded important messages which were communicated to the bureaux.

In addition, the Act #ForNature global online forum that took place on 8–10 June was truly inspiring. In total, nearly 3,000 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 recordings of the thematic sessions, which are available on the Environment Assembly website at <http://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/act-for-nature-forum>.

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

In accordance with my letter of 24 April 2020, attached is an updated draft outline for our ministerial declaration, which will, I hope, be a useful basis for further dialogue. The draft was presented for initial feedback at the preparatory retreat.

This is but our first step, and there will be more opportunities for further engagement by all, including those who were not able to send input for 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 I am sharing with you introduces three transformative areas for joint and positive action by ministers at the Environment Assembly. The text is phrased in more general terms at this stage.

I now invite you to share with me your proposals on how to further develop the draft outline document on the theme for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". **Please send your input to the email addresses postmottak@kld.dep.no and unep-sgb@un.org, preferably before 14 August 2020.** On the basis of your input, I aim to develop an updated version of the outline for further consultations to be held in September.

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

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

Yours sincerely,


Sveinung Rotevatn