

***Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document  
for the 2021 UN Environmental Assembly***

**EU+MS submission**

- The EU and its MS would like to thank the UNEA Presidency for updating the “Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document for the 2021 UN Environmental Assembly” and drawing on inputs submitted by MS.
- The current Draft Outline forms a balanced document and a good basis for further work. As prompted by the UNEA Presidency, the EU and its MS would like to propose some concrete measures to be included in the Draft Outline in addition to and/or in line with the content proposed in Draft Outline.

Inputs:

- General: support for a strong and concrete formulation for the first draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document, that builds on the results of previous UNEAs and in which repetitions should be avoided to make messages on areas for transformative change remain clear. Furthermore, the Paris Agreement should always be mentioned together with the 2030 Agenda, highlighting their interlinkages but also complementarity.
- Biodiversity: support a strong vision to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which are fundamental to achieving the SDGs and for resilience, including also underlining the need for protected and connected areas, and for protecting key natural resources.
- Sustainable consumption and production: Sustainable management and use of Earth’s natural resources in a way that allows present and future generations to meet their needs, within the planetary boundaries, should be placed in focus and given prominent attention in the MOD. Circular economy can serve as a model for sustainable and green economy. In this context, emphasis should be placed on policies that encourage the safe circularity of products, in conjunction with the private sector, namely, to improve the durability of products and to enable repair, reuse and recycling.
- Green Recovery: EU and its MS welcome that the need for a green recovery has been featured. As most probably the pandemic will not be over by the time UNEA-5 takes place, EU and its MS recommend to strengthen the language and to ensure that economic recovery support packages that are “green” address climate change as the defining challenge the world has to deal with and involve relevant types of incentives to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and circular business models that can significantly contribute to resource efficiency gains and limit the environmental footprint across value chains. At the same time, the chapter on Green Recovery should also address the need for a just and socially inclusive green recovery which leaves no one behind and mention the Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” (2018-2028) and its Action Plan as a tool that contributes to the strengthening of actions from nature for the achievement of the SDGs.
- Healthy ecosystems, healthy people: the chapter should be linked to the “Health and environment in all policies” approach and to the “One Health approach” in relation to preventing and addressing zoonoses like COVID-19 and antimicrobial resistance, also in relation to the AMR report for UNEA-5 called for at UNEA-3. Further reflections and political commitment are necessary to find stronger interlinkages with the rest of 2030 Agenda in

their implementation. A need to urgently step up the protection and restoration of biodiversity should be highlighted.

- Marine litter and microplastic: so far this topic hasn't been mentioned in the Draft Concept. EU and its MS deem it important for this to be included. Most notably, it is essential to stay in line with the UNEA-5 linked roadmap concerning resolution 3/7 and 4/6 on marine litter and microplastic and conclude the discussions within the ad-hoc open-ended expert group with a view to deliver recommendations for UNEA5 in order to widen the scope and embark on work for a legally binding instrument targeting the whole lifecycle of plastic in different environmental compartments including water, air and land.
- The Beyond 2020 framework for sound management of chemicals and waste (SMCW): while EU and its MS welcome the fact that this input has been included into the Draft Concept, EU and its MS would suggest focusing not only on contributing to the negotiations but also to support the adoption of an ambitious beyond 2020 framework to be agreed at ICCM5 in July 2021 and its effective implementation afterwards. In particular, the Integrated Approach to Financing the SMCW (decision UNEP/GC.27/12) shall be fully implemented to mobilize and direct the resources necessary for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels.
- Nature-based solutions (NBS): When referring to this concept, it must be made clear that it encompasses biodiversity safeguards (keeping in mind that not all NBS are biodiversity-friendly), preferably with reference to the definition used by IPBES<sup>1</sup>.
- Sustainable Food Systems: under this chapter, a link should be made between food systems and emergence on zoonotic diseases, recognizing that most of the drivers of their emergence are primarily linked to food systems, including increasing human demand for animal protein.
- Placeholders relating to UNEP@50, Stockholm+50 and a reference to the importance of Governance (73/333) should be included.

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<sup>1</sup>*“Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits (see p. 31 of the glossary of IPBES’ 2019 Global Assessment Report)*