

22 July 2020

**Canadian comments on the draft outline for the UNEA-5 Ministerial Declaration  
(Version circulated on July 3, 2020)**

- Canada thanks the Presidency for consulting broadly on the proposed outline. It is well rooted into the theme of UNEA-5 and constitutes a good basis for working towards the outcome document.
- While there are some references to climate change in the outline, it is critical for Ministers to communicate clearly the **need and determination to act jointly on nature/biodiversity and climate change**. This would be conveyed by a robust narrative in the declaration explaining why we cannot address one without the other, and through a commitment to integrated actions such as nature based solutions (NBS) for both mitigation, adaptation, building resilience and ecosystems.
- The **sense of urgency to act and to increase ambition**, particularly on nature and climate, in the lead up to CBD COP and the COP26, **could be made more prominent**. UNEA-5 presents a unique opportunity to pick up and provide the momentum that is at risk of having been lost by then, given the postponement of international events due to COVID-19. This message of urgency could also be drawn with a reference to the upcoming Global Assessments Synthesis Report that UNEP is preparing for launching at UNEA-5 for the kick-off of UNEP@50.
- We feel it would be important that **the Vision** reflect the concept of **inclusivity**.
- It will be important to mention how to reach the SDG targets that have a 2020 deadline. Of note 12 out of 21 of these focus on the environment and are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as well as the Paris Agreement.
- **Regarding the “Green Recovery” area:** It will be important that the outcome document **address green recovery in a comprehensive and integrated way**, through for example a **commitment** to action in sustainable consumption and production and circular economy (with appropriate links to waste, chemicals and air pollution). We also note that the description in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph carries a risk of duplication of some of the proposed issues already in the Healthy Ecosystems area.
- **Regarding the “Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People” area:** it will be important to deliver a strong ministerial message in support of an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and through a commitment to enhanced actions on sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.