



Islamic Relief Worldwide thanks the UNEA President for his invitation to submit written proposals on how to further develop the draft outline document on the theme of the UN Environment Assembly, “Strengthening actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”

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?

UNEA should recognise the interconnectedness of the various human-driven crises (such as climate change, deforestation and biodiversity loss, animal extinctions, plastic pollution and pandemics), and the need to tackle them systemically and holistically when designing actions for nature and achievement of the SDGs.

UNEA should strive to coordinate its efforts towards environmental justice and the SDGs with those of the humanitarian community, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and especially the UNFCCC Paris Agreement with its requirements for each country to present plans to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and to identify medium- and long-term climate change adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address them. Through these adaptation plans, stakeholders must work to enhance capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change and environmental degradation whilst contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ministers should declare their intention to support people to live sustainably within planetary limits of shared air, land, and water through actions that help all be good neighbours.

Ministers should recognise the role of faith and ethical values, and religious organisations and communities, in strengthening action for nature to achieve sustainable development

The declaration should strengthen protections and capacities of women leading communities to contribute to indicators of ecosystem health for local and national responses in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration etc.

Ministers will recognise that action for nature often requires resources, which is particularly challenging for the poorest countries. Some communities are more marginalised due to socio-economic, geographical area as well as their socio-political context and face greater barriers to action. In addition some groups face discrimination due to gender, race, age, religion etc. To ensure inclusion of the most effected and vulnerable, Ministers will commit to facilitating for their participation in local planning, and for those local plans to national plans and allocation the necessary resources for the plans to be realised.

2) 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.

- strengthen the role of FBOs, faith and ethical values in the decision making and strategy of the UNEA

-The preparation process for UNEA will need consider how well-designed systems and processes need to be developed to ensure full stakeholder consultation and meaningful consultation, such as accessible website portals where all background research, UNEA documentation, and comments collated, translated, and made readily accessible

- ensure that the victims of these environmental impacts as well as experts knowledgeable about them are invited to share their experience at the UNEA.

- UNEP is heavily lobbied by unsustainable corporations whose core business are in conflict of interest with UNEP's aim of protecting the planet, in particular petrochemical industries and their affiliated pesticide and chemicals corporations. UNEA 5 needs to agree on principles of non-cooperation with these corporations, and exclude any future partnerships