

## **Indonesia's Inputs to the Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document (Ministerial Declaration / MD) of the 2021 UN Environment Assembly**

Indonesia appreciates initiative and willingness of Norway, as President of UNEA-5 Bureau, to lead the inclusive formulation of a Ministerial Declaration of the UNEA-5 by inviting state members and a wide range of international community to provide input to draft outline document for the Declaration. The intensive and inclusive deliberation among wide range of actors is indeed pivotal to ensure that the Ministerial Declaration is workable, measurable, well-targeted and widely supported.

For Indonesia, a country with vast geographical area and very rich biodiversity, an UNEA Ministerial Declaration should demonstrate a collective commitment to pursuing a better global environment management and be able to mobilize resources to balance between the right to development and the obligation to preserve environment. In the light of global COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministerial Declaration needs to set the guideline on what the international community has to do to save environment from degradation as a result of socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

In responding to the recent Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document (Ministerial Declaration / MD) of the 2021 UN Environment Assembly, our inputs are as follows:

1. Draft MD proposed three priority areas, namely (a) Green recovery, (b) Healthy ecosystems, healthy people, and (c) Sustainable food systems. Although Indonesia fully understands the reason behind the selection of these three priority areas, ideally, an MD should be inclusive, allowing member states to propose discussion of issues of importance in their respective countries but not allowing too wide scope. In this regard, we suggest to limit it to the environmental elements of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
2. Among other issues, there are two areas for which Indonesia would like to propose in the MD:
  - a. Prevention and elimination of illegal trade of chemicals and waste

In recent years, Indonesia, together with many developing countries in Asia, has become a dumping ground for waste. This trend has caused severe environmental degradation and long-term health problems.

Furthermore, reports such as UNEP's "Global mercury supply, trade and demand" in 2017 and "The Illegal Trade in Chemicals" in 2020 reveal the significant value of illegally traded mercury, ranging between USD 100 – 215 million per year globally. As a result, despite the increasing regulatory scrutiny, the use of mercury remains at widespread levels.

Indonesia would welcome an MD which urges commitment to combating illegal trade of chemicals and mercury and calls upon state members and other relevant actors/organizations to pursue a stronger coordination and sharing information for that purpose.

b. Sustainable blue economy

Sustainable blue economy has huge economic potential, such as coastal carbon stocks (mangroves and seagrasses) and ocean-related energy (e.g. offshore wind) which could help many countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals. In line with the UNEP Global Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy held in 2018, UNEA-5 is a great momentum to put sustainable blue economy in a global policy discourse.

Countries have a big interest in the healthy and productive oceans through sustainable marine management, prevention, and mitigation of the impacts of climate change on the productivity of the sea (including fisheries) and coastal communities, sea-level rise, destruction of marine ecosystems, ocean acidification and disaster. The coastal and marine ecosystems have important roles in ecology, socio-culture, and contributes to national and regional economic growth.

3. The current draft MD has indicated some means of implementation. However, it does not touch much upon principles of international environmental law, especially related to common but different responsibilities and respective capacities as result of different economic and social condition between developed and developing countries. Indonesia would welcome the explicit statement recognizing the special situation and needs of developing countries, especially given the fact that developing countries are hardest hit by COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Indonesia notes the introduction of green recovery as a relevant development concept to the current challenges. The concept will help scale up ambition towards more sustainable and carbon-neutral economy, as well as prevent the further loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation. Having said that, there are some concerns that the concept has risks and could be carried out of context. There is a need to have a common understanding on this new concept. It is important that this new concept will not worse off to developing countries and financial support should be provided for that purpose.

Post-pandemic economic recovery plans make up an important part of the wide-ranging package of measures taken by policy-makers worldwide in responding to the financial and economic crisis. An optimum effect of the recovery plans on economic growth in the short term would only really be reached if a number of preconditions are met first. Hence, growth-stimulating measures need to be timely, temporary and targeted, although these conditions are not always met.

5. MD is not stand-alone document. It has to recognize correlation between UNEP and other international organizations/fora. The concept of "Sustainable food systems," for example, has been widely introduced and implemented by FAO since 2012. Therefore, an MD needs to mandate UNEP to pursue dialogue, coordination, and consultation with other international organizations / fora in the implementation of UNEA resolutions. This call is also relevant to facilitate exchange of views and dialogue over new economic paradigms, such as the green recovery and nature-based solution, between UNEP international organizations and fora which have long-standing role in economic matters, such as the G20, WTO, UNCTAD, and International Financial Institutions.
6. In responding to various reports which reveal a link between COVID-19 pandemic and unsanitary conditions of wildlife trade in wet markets, Indonesia would welcome the MD which encourages the improvement of health and sanitation conditions of wildlife trade along

supply chains and in markets which takes the participation of local community into consideration.

7. Promotion of synergy of the works between UNEP and other relevant organizations.
8. Based on experience from previous UNEAs, member states often had limited time to exchange views and stock-take issues of importance. To address this problem, an MD should strengthen the governance of UNEA, for example by establishing an Open-Ended Working Group which meets at least twice between one UNEA and the next UNEA. This mechanism will allow member states and observers to discuss most relevant environmental issues ahead to UNEA and monitor implementation of UNEA resolutions.