



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 18 (g)

**Sustainable development: report of the United Nations**

**Environment Assembly of the United Nations**

**Environment Programme**

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2024

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/79/437/Add.7](#), para. 7)]

### 79/209. Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the mandate contained in its resolution [2997 \(XXVII\)](#) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997,<sup>1</sup> the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000<sup>2</sup> and the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,<sup>3</sup>

*Reaffirming also* its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, and supporting continuous strengthening of intergovernmental oversight and the accountability of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Programme's mandate, in line with Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013,<sup>4</sup>

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25)*, annex, decision 19/1, annex.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/55/25)*, annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/65/25)*, annex I, decision SS.XI/9.

<sup>4</sup> [UNEP/GC.27/17](#), annex I.



“The future we want”,<sup>5</sup> and noting the follow-up on paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (h), of the outcome document, including through General Assembly resolution [67/213](#) of 21 December 2012,

*Recalling also* the establishment of universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance and its responsiveness and accountability to Member States, the attendant change of its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the evolution in the periodicity of its sessions,

*Recalling further* its resolutions [68/215](#) of 20 December 2013, [69/223](#) of 19 December 2014, [71/231](#) of 21 December 2016, [73/260](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/222](#) of 19 December 2019, [76/208](#) of 17 December 2021 and [77/168](#) of 14 December 2022,

*Reaffirming* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development<sup>6</sup> and its principles,

*Taking into account* Agenda 21<sup>7</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>9</sup> and the outcome document of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>10</sup>

*Recalling also* the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,<sup>11</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to

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<sup>5</sup> Resolution [66/288](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [60/1](#).

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [68/6](#).

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document [UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1](#) and [UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1/Corr.1](#), annex.

address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Reaffirming further* the Paris Agreement<sup>12</sup> and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>13</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Reaffirming* the indispensable role of the United Nations Environment Assembly within the United Nations system as the highest-level intergovernmental decision-making body with universal membership for enhancing progress in the comprehensive implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, in an integrated and balanced manner,

*Recognizing* the key role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting and strengthening the science-policy interface in order to support intergovernmental debate, negotiations and deliberations and policy decisions relating to international environmental law and governance, and promote the identification and sharing of the best available science to support effective environmental action and policymaking,

*Highlighting* the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and other relevant major intergovernmental outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in economic, social and environmental fields,

*Noting with profound concern* the findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, and stressing the urgent need to halt the global decline of biodiversity, which is unprecedented in human history, including its main indirect and direct drivers, in particular changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, invasive alien species and pollution,

*Welcoming* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and urges the early, inclusive and effective implementation of the Framework, and welcoming also the holding of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024,

*Welcoming also* the holding of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024, and looking forward to the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in the city of Belém, Brazil from 10 to 21 November 2025,

*Recalling* the outcomes of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, and urging their full implementation,

*Looking forward* to the holding of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those

<sup>12</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 13 December 2024,

*Recalling* the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023, and looking forward to the convening of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, to be co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, and the 2028 United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, to be hosted by Tajikistan,

*Looking forward* to the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, to be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025,

*Taking note* of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

*Committed* to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

*Recalling* its resolution [76/300](#) of 28 July 2022, entitled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”,

*Committed* to enhancing the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment,

*Recognizing* the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which met under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023 and under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York in 2023 and 2024 and undertook an in-depth review of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Reiterating* the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution [2997 \(XXVII\)](#), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, as well as the need to realize efficiency gains,

*Reaffirming* the commitments, as contained in the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014,<sup>14</sup> inter alia, to ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout the sustainable development agenda,

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<sup>14</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/69/25)*, annex, resolution 1/1.

acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development,

*Reiterating* the need to develop and expand partnerships, including between Governments, the private sector, academia, relevant United Nations entities and programmes, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society and individuals,

*Noting with great concern* the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024, takes note of the report on the sixth session<sup>15</sup> and welcomes the resolutions and decisions contained therein, and calls for their full implementation;

2. *Looks forward* to the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held in Nairobi from 8 to 12 December 2025 and to be chaired by Oman, and recommends the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council at the seventh session, in line with the spirit of integration and universality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;<sup>16</sup>

3. *Takes note* of the ministerial declaration entitled “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”,<sup>17</sup> adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session, in which the world’s ministers for the environment acknowledged with a sense of great urgency the threats posed to sustainable development by global environmental challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation, and their impacts on human health and the environment, which are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity;

4. *Welcomes* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022,<sup>18</sup> to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/79/25)*.

<sup>16</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>17</sup> UNEP/EA.6/HLS.1.

<sup>18</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

national circumstances and capabilities, and underscores the importance of securing an ambitious international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, while acknowledging that some legal obligations arising out of a new instrument will require capacity-building and technical and financial assistance in order to be effectively implemented by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard welcomes the commitment made by Heads of State and Government in the political declaration adopted during the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly to support the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

5. *Looks forward* to the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 25 November to 1 December 2024;

6. *Recalls* the decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in its resolution 5/8 of 2 March 2022,<sup>19</sup> to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and looks forward to the successful conclusion of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group;

7. *Acknowledges* the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, including its strategic objectives and targets;

8. *Recalls* the adoption of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022, entitled “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development”,<sup>20</sup> which provides a multilaterally agreed definition of nature-based solutions as actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits, and recalls that this concept is cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches identified under the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>21</sup> and other management and conservation approaches carried out under existing national policy and legislative frameworks and established under relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

9. *Welcomes* the adoption of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 6/5 of 1 March 2024, entitled “Environmental aspects of minerals and metals”,<sup>22</sup>

10. *Reiterates* the political declaration adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first special session for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme<sup>23</sup> and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30 August 1919, and acknowledges the 50-year contribution of the Programme in supporting a worldwide effort to overcome the planet’s biggest environmental challenges;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 6/4 of 1 March 2024, entitled “Promoting synergies, cooperation or

<sup>19</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.8](#).

<sup>20</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5](#).

<sup>21</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>22</sup> [UNEP/EA.6/Res.5](#).

<sup>23</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25*, addendum (A/77/25/Add.1), annex.



collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments”,<sup>24</sup> and 6/6 of 1 March 2024, entitled “Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements”;<sup>25</sup>

12. *Welcomes* the adoption of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 6/10 of 1 March 2024 entitled “Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally”;<sup>26</sup>

13. *Reaffirms* the importance of enhanced coordination within the United Nations system to promote a balanced integration of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development;

14. *Encourages* Member States to identify in their voluntary national reviews to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, where applicable, the contributions of multilateral environmental agreements to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Recognizes* the growing demand for stronger and more coherent environmental support at the country level, including with regard to United Nations Environment Programme engagement with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams, and calls for the reinforcement of the Programme and its catalytic role, both at its headquarters and at its regional offices, for the mainstreaming of environmental issues into planning, programming and operations, and inclusion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development at all levels, including in the common country analysis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks;

16. *Takes note* of the call to the United Nations Environment Programme to intensify its support and assistance to Member States, including at the country level and in cooperation with secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Reiterates* the importance for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with its mandate, working with the wider United Nations development system, to adopt and mainstream a more climate- and environment-responsive approach into its programmes and strategic plans, where appropriate, as well as in cooperation frameworks, or equivalent planning frameworks, and its policy advice to programme countries, in accordance with national development policies, plans, priorities and needs, including supporting programme countries that are parties to the Paris Agreement in its implementation;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to mainstream the environmental dimension of sustainable development into national policies, strategies and planning, including but not limited to supporting the capacity-building of relevant authorities, taking into account national circumstances, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda;

19. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to advance transformative and systemic changes and policies that address several environmental, economic and social challenges simultaneously, rechannelling financial flows to serve

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<sup>24</sup> [UNEP/EA.6/Res.4.](#)

<sup>25</sup> [UNEP/EA.6/Res.6.](#)

<sup>26</sup> [UNEP/EA.6/Res.10.](#)

the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative, holistic approaches that truly value nature;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to pursue the ambition to support environmental protection and the means of its implementation, including through global partnerships and by enabling a sustainable future for our planet and addressing urgent social, economic and environmental challenges;

21. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of the United Nations Environment Assembly to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner, as reflected in its resolutions 2/5 of 27 May 2016<sup>27</sup> and 3/3 of 6 December 2017<sup>28</sup> on the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

22. *Commends* the President and the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council for supporting and facilitating the effective integration of the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly into the preparation, work and proceedings of, and the participation of the President of the Environment Assembly in, the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;

23. *Encourages* the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to continue to convey the main messages agreed upon by the Environment Assembly at its sessions during the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, taking into account the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, as well as General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#) of 9 July 2013 and [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016;

24. *Welcomes* the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the lead-up and inputs to, and meetings of, the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2023 and 2024, and looks forward to further contributions to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in 2025;

25. *Reiterates* that capacity-building and technology support for developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard calls for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building adopted by the Programme;

26. *Welcomes* the adoption of United Nations Environmental Assembly resolution 5/3 of 2 March 2022,<sup>29</sup> in which the United Nations Environment Assembly reaffirmed that the objective of the Global Environment Outlook process is to keep the world environmental situation under review in order to periodically inform and support collective and individual action by Member States and by stakeholders, while strengthening the science-policy interface of the United Nations Environment Programme, and looks forward to the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook as an intergovernmental expert-led assessment;

27. *Recognizes* the devastating global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created new and serious health, socioeconomic and environmental challenges, compounded existing ones, especially in developing countries, and

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<sup>27</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

<sup>28</sup> [UNEP/EA.3/Res.3](#).

<sup>29</sup> [UNEP/EA.5/Res.3](#).



undermined our common efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the 2030 Agenda, and urges support for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery that protects the planet, stimulates sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable economic models and the promotion of life cycle approaches, promotes the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, revitalizes our economies and creates decent and sustainable jobs and makes real progress in eradicating poverty, while enhancing our future resilience to similar challenges;

28. *Underlines* the importance of universal membership in the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme, and invites all Member States and members of specialized agencies that have not yet done so to become accredited to the United Nations Environment Programme;

29. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate, and takes note of the invitation to consider the level of regular budget funding required to help the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil its mandate, taking into account the Programme's approved work programme and General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);

30. *Recalls* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide options to secure the participation of developing countries in the Environment Assembly;<sup>30</sup>

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme".

*54th plenary meeting  
19 December 2024*

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<sup>30</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/69/25)*, annex, resolution 1/15.