

**STATEMENT BY MR. JAMIL AHMAD**  
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**ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**ECOSOC MANAGEMENT SEGMENT**

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**I. UNEA Report**

1. It is an honour to address the ECOSOC management segment to introduce the report of the UN Environment Assembly, which corresponds to item 18 sub item d and is contained in document A/77/25.
2. In light of the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States decided that fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly would be bifurcated. The first part of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly took place fully online from 22 to 23 February 2021. The resumed session was held in person in Nairobi, with an opportunity also for online participation, from 28 February to 2 March 2022 under the theme “*Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*”. 166 Member States were represented, including 79 at the ministerial level. A significant number of bodies, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, secretariats of various environmental conventions, international organizations, civil society, major groups, academia, and the business and scientific communities, also participated and contributed actively.
3. The Assembly saw the world’s ministers of environment and high-level representatives engage in two interactive leadership dialogues and one multistakeholder dialogue held on 1 and 2 March 2022. During the first dialogue, participants highlighted ways to strengthen coherent and effective implementation of MEAs at both national and international levels and discussed how governments could utilize UNEP and the MEAs to address the interlinked environmental challenges, including by leveraging scientific evidence to promote cooperation and coherence across the global environmental agenda. In the second dialogue, participants engaged on how action for nature can be strengthened to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of nature, in line with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Stemming from an analysis of the main constraints preventing nature-positive outcomes, three main points covered were how individual behaviors, policies, and how we financial incentives can be changed in order to accelerate action on nature to achieve the SDGs.
4. The fifth UN Environment Assembly adopted a ministerial declaration and 14 resolutions to strengthen actions for nature and curb pollution to achieve SDGs. Among these are: a historic resolution to forge an international legally binding treaty to end plastic pollution, the establishment of a science policy panel on the sound management of chemicals and waste, on the definition and implementation of nature-based solutions, and a resolution on biodiversity and health.
5. Immediately after the resumed session, the first Special Session of the Assembly (UNEP@50) was held from 3 to 4 March 2022 to mark of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the UN Environment Programme in 1972 under the theme “*Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*”
6. In a political declaration adopted at the first Special Session member states expressed commitment to environmental cooperation and affirmed the indispensable role of the UN Environment Assembly within the United Nations system as the intergovernmental decision-making body with universal membership for enhancing progress in the comprehensive implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Two leadership dialogues and a multistakeholder dialogue were held, under the overall theme of the Special Session.

7. Mr. President, to fully utilize the existing institutional links between the Environment Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum, Member States may wish:
  - a. To consider the ministerial declaration of the Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session (UNEP/EA.5/HLS.1) entitled “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” and the political declaration of the Environment Assembly at its special session entitled “Political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP@50)(UNEP/EA.SS/1/4) in their deliberations on the ministerial declaration at the 2022 session of the high-level political forum and the Economic and Social Council, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - b. To consider aspects of the various resolutions adopted by the 5<sup>th</sup> UN Environment Assembly that are relevant to the preparatory processes for the provision of inputs to the submissions and policy recommendations to the high-level political forum. .
8. In its resolution 76/208, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the preparations to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of UNEP by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972; looked forward to the special session to commemorate UNEP@50, and decided that UNEP@50 would be the appropriate United Nations high-level meeting for the adoption of the political declaration pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/333 of 30 August 2019.
9. The present report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, presents an excellent opportunity to further integrate the outcomes of the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly into the work and discussions of the two bodies. The General Assembly is expected to consider the report of the resumed fifth session of the Environment Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. In that context, Member States may wish:
  - a. To take note of the report, the ministerial declaration and the resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, and of the political declaration adopted by the Environment Assembly at its first special session to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of UNEP;
  - b. To welcome the decision of the Environment Assembly to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, commencing its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024 (Environment Assembly resolution 5/14);
  - c. To welcome the decision of the Environment Assembly that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution (Environment Assembly resolution 5/8);
  - d. To welcome the decision of the Environment Assembly to convene the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 26 February to 1 March 2024 (Environment Assembly decision 5/4);
  - e. To consider, as appropriate, the level of funding from the regular budget of the United Nations required to help UNEP to fulfil its mandate, taking into account the approved programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972;
  - f. To reaffirm the need to ensure the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of UNEP to enable the Programme to fulfil its mandate;
  - g. To include in the provisional agenda of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme” to consider the outcomes of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly;
  - h. To recommend the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the meeting of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly, to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, in line with the spirit of integration and universality of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.