

## ***Joint Media Communication from Minister of the Environment and Forestry of Kenya Keriako Tobiko and Minister of the Environment of Sweden Annika Strandhäll following Stockholm+50 – Together towards a better future***

Pursuant to decisions, resolutions and messaging from UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50, Stockholm+50 has demonstrated a strong determination from the global community to work together to secure a better future and a healthy planet for all – through the power of multilateralism, inclusive joint action and system-wide transformation. People everywhere suffer from the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Urgent action is needed to bring about transformative change for the wellbeing of current and future generations, solve the climate crises, halt and reverse biodiversity loss and stop pollution. Green, inclusive, just, fair and sustainable transition, and a green recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic is the way forward to ensure that everyone will enjoy the benefits of a healthy planet– women, men, girls and boys alike. Since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, the global community has adopted a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as well as other relevant commitments, including the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Fulfilment of the objectives and commitments of all these agreements requires strong and urgent political will, adequate, predictable and sustainable means of implementation to secure a healthy planet for all. Now, is the time to accelerate implementation of these commitments, strengthen the multilateral system, enhance ambition and just transition, build trust, collaboration and solidarity, equitably phase out fossil fuels, build nature positive and circular economies, and thereby set us on a credible path towards a healthy planet for all – leaving no one behind.

Based on the discussions during Stockholm+50, we underline the following:

1. We need to **rethink and redefine how we measure economic success and growth**, in a manner that fully recognises and values nature, with full cost-pricing of environmental externalities, and that puts increased emphasis on collective well-being, gender equality, intergenerational responsibility and equity. This implies going beyond traditional measures of economic progress and adopting **new measurements for prosperity and wellbeing**. Sustainable and resilient food systems, both ocean and land-based, as well as food security, are key in transforming our food production systems.
2. **The multilateral system is key to success**. Consistent with existing MEAs and other relevant commitments including the 2030 Agenda, all global multilateral institutions, including international financial institutions, must work together towards one common goal. Trust and equity are of key importance. **Increased convergence within the UN system and between the processes under the various MEAs will be essential, along with** improved governance, integrated and joint approaches and continuity. The UN Secretary General's report *Our Common Agenda*, will be crucial to this end. UNEP needs to be further strengthened and the further development and strengthening of international environmental law and governance will be critical. The ocean, its role

for biodiversity and climate, and the development of sustainable blue economies, must be harnessed and prioritized.

3. Important **ongoing processes that will further strengthen the multilateral system**, such as the development of a global framework for biodiversity, an implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the protection of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction and the development of a new plastics convention, need to be brought to successful outcomes. An ambitious post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be agreed this year in Kunming, will be decisive for a healthy planet. **Successful results from these processes will bring important contributions** to the action that is urgently needed and will also pave the way for a successful **Summit of the Future** next year, where the outcomes of key UN meetings, including UNEA 5.2, UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 will be followed up.
4. Implementation of the politically recognized **right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment** will be an important contribution to achieving a healthy planet for all.
5. **Implementation at national level is key for a healthy planet.** Only if implemented at national level will our joint commitments make a real difference. We need to explore ways to further enhance implementation, looking at national circumstances, capacities, needs, priorities.
6. **All financial flows and investments** – public and private – need to be **aligned with environmental, climate and sustainable development commitments**, including those pursuant to MEAs. **Transparency and accountability** are of fundamental importance in creating and upholding trust and normative frameworks for all public and private actors, including business and financial institutions.
7. **Financing for environment and development needs to be mobilized and scaled up**, including by finding ways of de-risking green and blue investments. Green and blue bonds are important tools in this regard. The needs and challenges of the most vulnerable and least developed require our special attention so as to ensure that no one is left behind. Accessibility of finance is crucial for those most affected. The social, gender-related and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic must be addressed to ensure sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery.
8. **Inclusion represents the way forward to build legitimacy of action on all levels. Youth, indigenous peoples and other non-governmental stakeholders** play major roles as agents of change that must be put to use. Gender equality and drawing on the knowledge and contribution of women and girls is crucial. The responsibility towards coming generations and the importance of intergenerational equity must lead the way. **The Global Youth Environment Assembly and Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force and their policy paper**, provide a model for meaningful youth engagement and participation in multilateral processes and decision making.
9. **Science, education, research, and training are key to innovation, technological development and transfer, awareness, advocacy and changing** behaviour. Well-informed and well-educated populations spur ambitious action. **Re-skilling and creation of green and blue jobs**, are essential to build resilient and sustainable economies. A global alliance for green jobs for youth should be developed, with a view to sharing knowledge, best practice and piloting green job creation programmes in developing countries. The **digital transition** is a key enabler of the green and just transition and recovery, and **addressing the digital divide** is critical in this regard.
10. **Green and blue transformations of high impact sectors** such as food, energy and manufacturing, including carbon sequestration, provide opportunities and potential to address poverty and inequality and achieve sustainable development. Development of

markets, including carbon markets, for products from developing countries are crucial enablers for transformative and just transition towards sustainable development. In this respect, **Circular economy remains essential to decouple growth from resource and material use**. Sustainability across the value chains and resource efficiency through the entire life cycle of products and design of products are key components. An inclusive, multilateral dialogue on **sustainable consumption and production**, resource efficiency and circular economy would provide an important contribution to the multilateral system.

The above **recommendations from Stockholm + 50** reflect a clear determination expressed by governments, non-governmental stakeholders, civil society, public and private organisations and institutions to work **together to achieve a healthy planet for all and secure a better future** for ourselves and for coming generations. We look forward to following up on Stockholm+50, as well as the outcomes of **UNEA5. 2 and UNEP@50**, at the Summit for the Future in 2023.