



Code: UNEA/1/1

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Halting Biodiversity Loss

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming the goals of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, which include conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Having examined the 5th annual Global Diversity Outlook Report, sponsored by the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, which found that mountains cover 27% of terrestrial land across the globe and maintain high levels of biodiversity despite being 2.5% of the world's tropical forests, yet notes that 43.9% of Member States have designated less than 10% of their mountainous regions as protected,

Acknowledging that the mountains provide sustenance and wellbeing to 1.1 billion people around the world, indirectly benefit billions, and provide freshwater, energy and food resources that will grow increasingly scarce over the coming decades, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization in December 2019,

Recognizing that cloud forests hold a disproportionately large amount of the world's biodiversity, yet are under imminent threat and reaffirming the importance of the Cloud Forest Agenda, which highlights the value of awareness-raising tools, innovative funding mechanism, and active and effective management of protected areas in the process of conservation,

Keeping in mind the need for agricultural Member States to maintain the livelihoods of their farmers and allow them to prosper while limiting biodiversity loss,

Takes into account the model of the green-energy relationship between Austrian mountainous farmers, who receive federal funding for wind power and hydropower initiatives, and the regions that they help maintain,

Emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN General Assembly in 2015, as outlined in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 (2015), in particular Goal 15 which seeks to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; Goal 6.6, which ensures the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes; and Goal 14, which ensures the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, sea and marine resources for sustainable development,

Affirming the desire to better protect the world's mountains, as seen in the UN Declaration of 2002 as the International Year of Mountains and understanding the relationship between the world's mountainous regions, agriculture, and biodiversity preservation,

1. *Recommends* a global goal of protecting 10% of each Member State's mountainous regions—while also recommending that the percentage goal increase by 5% every five years until reaching 50%—as protected Wilderness Areas, which are:

- a. Determined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Protected Area Categories;
 - b. Free of modern infrastructure, development, industrial extractive activity, and excessive human use or presence;
 - c. Characterized by a high degree of intactness, offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, and have a sufficient size to protect biodiversity;
2. *Encourages* other Member States with the capacity to adopt federally-funded wind power and hydropower measures, similar to that of Austrian mountain farmers, within their own agrarian mountainous regions by providing renewable energy infrastructures and energy buy-back programs to their citizens who lower their energy consumption;
3. *Encourages* Member States to provide a system of knowledge-sharing based in international organizations, such as the World Farmers Organization, where the farmers or fishers could base their practiced sustainable methods, such as alternative energy sources, water conservation and recycling methods, and reduced waste and gas emissions;
4. *Proclaims* that, in order to avoid incidental damage caused by tourism, Member States should offer a limited number of positions vested in the supervision of these areas by:
 - a. Supporting an increase in public awareness to both better protect and advertise the beauty of wild flora and fauna;
 - b. Reminding Member States that measures to increase supervision of these areas will better the Member States both ecologically and financially by creating new employment opportunities;
5. *Invites* the establishment of a bi-annual committee to discuss international progress towards the goals outlined within this resolution and invites all Member States to participate in said committee.



Code: UNEA/1/2

Committee: The United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Halting Biodiversity Loss

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of taking urgent action to combat climate change in the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, and the consequences land exploitation is having on biodiversity loss,

Acknowledging the fact that there are only ten years left to achieve the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its SDGs, specifically SDG 15 which aims to reverse land degradation, biodiversity loss, and sustainable management of forests,

Recalling the importance of reaching SDG 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to decrease the consequences of climate change and energy consumption on biodiversity,

Observing the need for international cooperation in the maintenance and preservation of biodiversity in rivers and other bodies of water that are shared by many Member States,

Stressing the importance of aquatic biodiversity to all Member States and the shared interest in maintaining aquatic resources for future generations,

Deeply concerned that the number of threatened species has increased from 10,000 to 25,000, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, in the last 10 years due to the irresponsible actions of the human population which have destabilized the ecosystems of wildlife around the world,

Noting with deep concern the global prevalence of invasive species, organisms not native to a region, which pose a significant impact on the loss of biodiversity across the globe, primarily through their ability to infiltrate and commandeer the habitats of native species specifically in global biodiversity hotspots 16% of which are highly vulnerable to invasion,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biodiversity as it pertains to sustainable development, as outlined by General Assembly resolution 72/221 of 2018 on the *Implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity on Sustainable Development*,

Emphasizing the importance of proactive solutions to the conservation of biodiversity,

Having examined how human activity, specifically human modification of landscape and carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels, has altered the earth's surface and increased the risk of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19, which has affected over 49 million people and killed over 1 million,

Fully aware of the need to develop favorable and sustainable agricultural practices according to the Climate-Smart Agricultural Initiative created by the African Union Development Agency in order to protect water and land resources, and promote growth in the environmental sector,

Mindful of the concept of territorial management, defined by the Secretariat of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), as a process aimed at reaching a sustainable and efficient use of land,

Considering the economic and environmental benefits of a circular economy, in which resources are reused, recycled, and refurbished within the economy to their fullest potential as a means of maximizing efficiency and minimizing waste,

Appreciating the fact that Member States who employ circular economic strategies consistently show a decrease in energy consumption and biodiversity loss, and serve as examples of how to efficiently implement a circular economy,

Keeping in mind that technologies, like the the Internet of Things (IoTs), show potential in addressing the issue of endangered species,

Recalling that the collaboration in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity helped to raise awareness of biodiversity on a reciprocal basis through international evaluations of environmental conservation efforts,

Bearing in mind the immense value educational programs have on conservation efforts and remembering that resources like the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/CBD Biodiversity Learning Kit are readily available for Member States' use,

1. *Recommends* that Member States take collective action at both the regional and international level in order to:
 - a. Create coalitions with neighboring Member States to share expertise, optimal practices, and resources while working in partnership with NGOs, like the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) partnering with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF);
 - b. Identify environmental risks contributing to the loss of biodiversity, such as illegal land logging and deforestation;
 - c. Create cohesive action plans with timelines for implementation of new practices and initiatives to ensure measurable goals are attained, like the *Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program*, and commit to the implementation of best practices and environmental initiatives in their Member States;
2. *Calls* for an international set of standards, similar to existing agreements within the European Union, that would provide guidelines for national policy to preserve aquatic biodiversity within shared bodies of water which would:
 - a. Address both resource extraction and pollution and other toxic runoff that moves downstream, affecting the freshwater supply of other Member States;
 - b. Create mutual obligations between Member States that share bodies of water that would more effectively halt biodiversity loss than an individual approach;
 - c. Encourage the adoption of these standards on a national level by all Member States that share bodies of water;

3. *Urges* Member States to increase local nature restoration efforts to promote the ability of local ecosystems to survive, specifically efforts to increase revegetation and establishing vegetation on sites where it has been previously lost;
4. *Further recommends* that Member States increase protected areas that provide critical habitat for at risk and endangered species, to take the form of geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed to achieve long term conservation of nature associated with regional ecosystems;
5. *Invites* Member States to increase their use of harvesting methods to minimize the release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane gas, from the soil;
6. *Expresses its hope to* reduce industries' emissions of microfibers and greenhouse gasses, which threaten biodiversity, through:
 - a. Recommending the enforcement of heavier regulations on industries' outputs of microfibers and greenhouse gases;
 - b. Encouraging industries to shift to greener materials such as hemp and jute;
 - c. Requesting organizations reduce toxins used within production;
7. *Requests* Member States reduce the production of carbon and greenhouse gases through the implementation of eco-friendly infrastructure and technology to eliminate its effects on biodiversity;
8. *Strongly advises* that Member States fine persons and/or corporations responsible for substantial pollution, and require those persons to restore the area to its natural state;
9. *Suggests* that drone technology be used to monitor forests on a closer level in order to easily identify those who want to destroy these fragile areas, as these devices can:
 - a. Monitor affected areas for heat signatures and abnormal activity to ensure that nature is not being destroyed for economic gain and provides real time footage of wildlife;
 - b. Alert responsible authorities such as firefighters that fire/smoke is detected, in order to avoid copious amounts of damage being inflicted;
 - c. Spray seeds into destroyed areas of the forest to encourage life to return to these damaged areas, as well as regrowth;
 - d. Be funded by organizations like the Cisco Foundation, which work to provide financial stipends to key areas of investment that could benefit from technology based solutions;
 - e. Be audited by organizations like Sensefly, a third party organization with no Member State affiliation which works to ensure that these devices are not used for ill will and are solely monitoring key affected areas;

10. *Desiring* that Member States collaborate with international trade bodies, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to implement policies with the purpose of creating and enforcing environmentally friendly practices during the transportation of resources by:
 - a. Incorporating accountability and incentives for every partnering nation (i.e Voluntary Partnership Agreement - Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade);
 - b. Collaborating with neighboring Member States to address land degradation;
 - c. Promoting civic engagement in local communities by implementing educational policies with an emphasis on sustainable and beneficial land usage;
 - d. Sharing information and technology on an international level with the goal of preventing any future illegal use of natural resources and poaching;
11. *Strongly suggests* that UNEP increases the use of programs designed to facilitate safe international trading procedures, in order to halt the spread of invasive species from different environments, while keeping the integrity of the ecosystems in all participating parties;
12. *Endorses* the implementation of circular economic strategies as a means to promote both economic growth and conservation efforts, on both a national and global scale by:
 - a. Encouraging the establishment of circular economies as a common norm in order to stimulate sustainable industry and economic development;
 - b. Endorsing the continued funding of sustainable agricultural and industrial practices across Member States;
 - c. Further recommending the implementation of educational programs that help educate Member States on how to properly and effectively establish a circular economy;
13. *Supports* the use of nature-oriented and continuous cover forestry that:
 - a. Promotes less short-lived forest products, since these require a lot of energy to produce and release carbon to the atmosphere rapidly;
 - b. Reduces consumption of energy, as well as other natural resources, from Member States and their neighbors which traditionally leads to the mining of mountains, pollution of waterways through runoff, and deforestation of sufficient diverse forests;
14. *Promotes* the stop of global destruction and felling of primary and natural forests:
 - a. Due to how the removal of forests at the rate it is currently proceeding in will cause the CO₂ to rise and create an imbalance in the Earth's ozone layer and air;
 - b. Enforcing strict rules on felling, such as The Forestry Act;
 - i. Having to report if you are going to take down 0.5 or more hectares of forest;

- ii. If felling is to occur, the companies have to pay to plant the same seeds in the place of the felling;
 - iii. Companies can only cut down a certain amount of hectares of trees per year;
 - iv. Having a stricter enforcement of the Nature Conservation Act;
 - c. Report to the government of Member States and gain approval from the County Forestry Board;
 - d. Suggests going paperless to minimize the 2 billion trees being felled per year to which will reduce the felling of trees to a normal rate;
- 15. *Approves* of natural regeneration, and favors mixed forests with greater proportions of deciduous trees;
- 16. *Further invites* all Member States to exchange scientific data through platforms such as the Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity for supporting developing Member States with advanced information and having stronger connections at a regional level, which usually has similar environmental situations and not only international cooperation;
- 17. *Calls for* educating the populations of all willing Member States on topics pertinent to biodiversity in pursuit of a more environmentally conscious general public that will support the protection of biodiversity by:
 - a. Creating conservation centers sponsored and funded by the pertaining United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Environmental Protection Agency, which serves the needs of respective Member States;
 - b. Instituting curriculum throughout the respective educational systems of Member States, specifically that of primary education, that pertains to biodiversity protection by:
 - i. Producing printed and electronic materials which pertains to subjects of biodiversity, tailored to the unique biological needs and ecosystems of Member States and clearly states the consequences regarding biodiversity loss in the forms of ads, reading materials, and videos;
 - ii. Supporting already existing government agencies in their efforts to incorporate these educational plans in schools, in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF);
 - iii. Highlighting the instrumentality of mangroves, coral reefs, and other aquatic environments to the preservation of the global ecosystem;
 - c. Founding an educational program for all small and large-scale farmers about harmful farming practices that reduce soil biodiversity and fertility, and implementing regenerative farming protocols to recover areas previously affected;
 - d. Facilitating the creation of a conference that meets regularly to discuss the major issues, resolutions, volunteer programs, and aid tactics regarding biodiversity which:
 - i. Meets every five months for consistency and proper regulation;

- ii. Has guests from conservation areas and rehabilitation centers which will speak on their respective specialities for the betterment of attendees;
 - iii. Addresses how issues of biodiversity shift rapidly, necessitating the regularity of the conference;
 - iv. Funding for this conference will be through partnerships between the UNEP and various conservation organizations like, the Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund;
- 18. Recommends the encouragement of formal environmental education through the implementation of nationally-supported scholarships and scientific grants:
 - a. Grants will be given to colleges/universities so they can improve their environmental department;
 - b. A requirement for the scholarship is that after the environmental student graduates, they will need to participate in research for a certain period of time decided by the Member State;
- 19. Approves the development of biodiversity-friendly processes within industries, early research programs in public universities and high schools, and cooperation with pre-established NGOs;
- 20. *Encourages* Member States' investment in research and investigation of causes of biodiversity loss in their region in partnership with relevant NGOs and UN bodies, to promote conservation and prevent further degradation of plant and wildlife;
- 21. *Calls upon* Member States to engage in and surpass UNEA's agreement on the innovation of biodiversity and land degradation by:
 - a. Stressing the need to maintain oversight on the most competitive species;
 - b. Encouraging the creation of effective ecological corridors that permit species to travel in fragmented landscapes;
 - c. Emphasizing the development of protection plans across the board for endangered species;
 - d. Recommending that Member States incorporate climate change considerations into all land-use planning and management procedures;
- 22. *Proclaims* that Member States should contribute scientific knowledge by engaging in the *Collaboration in the Intergovernmental Science And Policy Platform on Biodiversity* (IPBES), as participating in IPBES gives Member States the opportunity to establish regional conservation actions by modifying and sharing information that will entail technological advances;
- 23. *Underlines* the need to reduce poaching and keep track of endangered species in order to preserve our biodiversity by:
 - a. Emphasizing the need to develop food policy to ensure maximum land use and reduce food waste at the farm and processing level;

- b. Encouraging the implementation of aggressive regulation for waste disposal for all types of business and/or illegal citizen waste disposal;
- c. Recommends strong partnership between businesses with access to renewal and nonrenewal resources with strong adjusting procedures and understanding of environment depletion causes and effect;
- d. Recognizing that waste disposal from agriculture and meat production should be regulated and the idea to recycle and reused waste from raw material after harvesting and processing and meat production.



Code: UNEA/1/3

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Halting Biodiversity Loss

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting with deep concern that, according to the [Living Planet Report 2018](#), humanity has caused a decline of 60% in global wildlife populations,

Concerned that reforestation is an economic bolster and provides the restoration of habitats to those species that have been lost,

Emphasizing that according to the [Global Biodiversity Outlook 5](#) that more than 10 million tons of plastic waste being produced and ending up in the natural environment,

Acknowledging that according to the [United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030](#), over 12 million hectares of arable land is lost annually, affecting 1.5 billion people in approximately 100 countries globally,

Cognizant that runoff from pesticides and fertilizers is responsible for endangering around 200,000 people each year, according to a United Nations report,

Deeply concerned that up to one million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction according to the Red List Index (RLI),

Recognizing the commitments made in the [Declaration on Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change \(2017\)](#) to promote equity in creating solutions to combat environmental degradation,

Taking note of the risk that biodiversity loss poses to the wellbeing of citizens worldwide, as well as its disruption to the economy,

Stressing that biodiversity loss is addressed in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2030 Agenda\)](#) in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, "Life Below Water," and SDG 15, "Life on Land,"

Regretting the lack of consistent, complete, and accessible global data to assist in preventing the further loss of biodiversity, along with the difficulties that global inequalities create for data collection,

Considering that anthropogenic rise in global temperature continues to change weather patterns, particularly precipitation, and affects biodiversity rates worldwide,

Acknowledging that biodiversity is an imperative issue and through support from experts in the field, this issue can be improved by saving endangered species,

Noting with regret the indifference of industries over the environmental damage they are responsible for and acknowledging the correlation between education and pluralism, economic prosperity, and democratization,

1. *Reaffirms* the international community's commitment to achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 14, "Life Below Water," and SDG 15, "Life On Land";

2. *Urges* Member States assist in efforts by establishing operations that work to minimize plastic waste through methods of recycling, turning to renewable resources, and sharing technologies and processes among countries as part of the global biodiversity database;
3. *Suggests* Member States cooperate with the UNEA in developing a global study for the implementation of a Near-Natural Construction Method, a strategy that has recreated habitats for plants and animals within cities while developing sustainable practices;
4. *Encourages* the creation of a bi-annual conference under the UNEA, possibly partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that allows all Member States to participate in promoting organic farming with the inclusion of agriculture experts to share best practices and methods that promote biodiversity growth such as the use of organic fertilizers and pesticides, including but not limited to ladybugs and manure;
5. *Considers* the expansion of a universal fishing commission that focuses on the sustainability of the fishing and wildlife industry within the oceans and consists of Member States that border oceans with help from UN Oceans which also works with fishing and the wildlife industry by:
 - a. Coordinating the efforts of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Western-Central Atlantic Fishery Commission and Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission;
 - b. Bringing about improvements such as increasing fishing prices to curb overfishing and how to sustain the farming of fish, helping clean up Member States' oceans and rivers at their own discretion;
6. *Suggests* that Member States create specific targeted action plans that balance their unique challenges with achievable solutions by:
 - a. Using research from the Global Environment Outlook, which highlights the major factors of biodiversity loss such as overfishing and deforestation;
 - b. Working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and forming Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to help implement these action plans into communities worldwide;
 - c. Collaborating with non-profit NGOs to fund action plans supporting SDG 15, Life On Land, and SDG 14, Life Below Water;
 - d. Focusing special attention of these action plans on marine wildlife preservation for relevant states;
 - e. Partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to form a multilateral subcommission with the purpose of creating international frameworks devoted to making agricultural ecosystems more sustainable, thus mitigating species loss through:
 - i. Developing specific programs that balance Member States' unique challenges with financially achievable solutions;
 - ii. Providing universal access to educational information focused on sustainable farming techniques, such as permaculture, crop rotation, and agroforestry;
 - iii. Diverging from monoculture crop cultivation to increase genetic variability and ecosystem diversity, strengthen food systems in accordance with SDG 2 "Zero Hunger" and decrease the risk of widespread botanical and zoological disease;

7. *Strongly encourages* the implementation of hydroponic green initiatives to help combat land degradation from unsustainable agricultural practices that lead to irreversible damages in ecosystems and biomes, focusing on the expansion of food systems, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
 - a. In accordance with the International Fund for Agriculture in the United Nations to increase incomes, food security, and nutrition as well as building resilience;
 - b. Suggesting a partnership with the Global Alliance for Future Food to help strengthen adaptability of food systems in food insecure nations;
 - c. Addressing the World Foods Program initiative to link agriculture and technology through AI based hydroponic greenhouses;
8. *Recommends* that Member States collaborate with neighboring countries to implement policies with the purpose of creating more regulated trade of wildlife, which will deter those seeking to illegally exploit wildlife by:
 - a. Partnering with global entities and NGOs;
 - b. Working with neighboring countries to address land degradation;
 - c. Implementing a Green Climate Fund to halt biodiversity loss;
 - d. Creating conservation areas to halt biodiversity loss;
9. *Further suggests* the creation of a sub-commission under the UNEA focused on the assembly of a globally accessible and complete wildlife biodiversity database as mentioned above through:
 - a. Working with local governments, especially those without adequate resources to gather data, to establish local data collection task force initiatives in accordance with the Targeted Action Plan;
 - b. Especially assessing and quantifying the current state, scale, and effects of overfishing and marine agriculture malpractice on biodiversity and the loss of species with help from United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
 - c. Making this database publicly available and accessible for the benefit of scientists, citizen activists, and any other interested parties;
10. *Proposes* that the Fifth Session of the UNEA in 2022 makes it a priority to share successful ideas and make plans for developed countries to reach net zero emissions by the year 2050 and developing countries by the year 2060 by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to collaborate and invest in research, innovation, alternative energy, and climate technologies to ameliorate current conditions causative of the loss of biodiversity by:
 - i. Partnering with corporations to invest in technologies with the intention of reducing Greenhouse Gases that contribute to Climate Change and subsequent biodiversity loss;

- ii. Cooperating with the neighboring Member States to condense research to region-specific challenges to the environment;
- iii. Exploring research on microbial means to aid the removal of non-biodegradable substances in the environment;

11. *Invites* zoos to research while working with government officials and endorses continuing the creation of programs within the zoos and national parks to provide educational programs for the population visiting these industries:

- a. Working with World Heritage to preserve territories throughout Member States;
- b. Encouraging a formation of national parks and zoos wildlife protection service to protect those species that are nearing extinction while upending the black-market sport of poaching adding risk to the degradation of world ecosystems;
- c. Suggests zoos to continue further research proper guidelines to help facilitate education while working with government officials including the community Based Natural Resources Management team;

12. *Recommends* a collaboration between UNESCO and UNEA to create committee focused on providing universal education and completing SDG 4 and SDG 12, wherein each Member State sends two national representatives to discuss:

- a. Educating citizens of their respective Member States on sustainable consumption practices and ways to reduce waste while supporting local economies;
- b. Sustaining educational systems founded on environmental sustainability to influence global state policy, through:
 - i. Highlighting the economic benefits of sustainable tourism that enhances biodiversity;
 - ii. Stressing the negative economic effects of biodiversity loss ranging from food insecurity to increased risk of disease from upset ecological systems;
 - iii. Encouraging governments to take advantage of existing incentives that additionally promote international cooperation and national commitments;
- c. Raising awareness amongst Member State governments to complement the efforts combating biodiversity loss, through:
 - i. Acknowledging the numerous benefits of education in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) who prioritize meeting domestic essential need;
 - ii. Resulting in an enabling environment to resolve fundamental domestic concerns of LDCs to draw attention and allocate efforts towards environmental sustainability and biodiversity loss.



Code: UNEA/1/4

Committee: The United Nations Environment Assembly

Topic: Halting Biodiversity Loss

The United Nations Environmental Assembly,

Affirming the efforts of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) to advocate for global multilateral cooperation between Member States, domestic industries, and NGOs,

Recalling its support for the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 "Life on Land", which aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managed forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, and provides goals and a framework to create a world where all life could thrive and address the threats posed by climate change,

Considering the need to balance sustainability and development in line with Agenda 2030,

Further Recalling the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Report on Extreme Floods and Dam Safety (2003) which calls attention upon the degradation of ecosystems due to natural disasters, caused by climate change and rising sea levels which, in turn, destroy biodiversity,

Bearing in mind that humans are invading endangered species habitats through urban sprawl and nearly 400 cities are located in biodiversity hotspot zones; 90% of which could destroy the habitats of endangered species,

Highlighting the 2016 New Urban Agenda that shows the benefits of sustainability in urbanization to decrease environmental impacts and boost Least Developed Countries' (LDCs) economies,

Having adopted the UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, which made clear the unique problems that LDCs face as a result of political instability and its related problems, such as illegal industry and its adverse impacts on biodiversity,

Placing great value on biodiversity hotspots, more specifically the seventeen countries recognized as megadiverse by the CBD, meaning they have unique and large amounts of biodiversity,

Acknowledging the imminent threat that is posed to developing countries, as stated in the International Fund for Agriculture and Development's Report on Rural Challenges in Developing Countries, in regard to economic recovery and environmental resiliency, especially in rural communities that require more support in switching to a sustainable agricultural system,

Gravely concerned with the shrinking population of native species in terrestrial habitats, paired with the proliferation of invasive species,

Noting the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) data reporting the significant increase of vulnerable species to extinction,

Emphasizing the efforts of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 3/5 (2018) "Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions for Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable

Development Goals” for investing and facilitating innovative environmental solutions through the sustainable use of natural capital and resources in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and LDCs for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs,

Underlining the usage of fossil fuels by large companies and its effects on biodiversity loss by exacerbating the effects of global warming as discussed in the Fifth Assessment Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Reiterating the importance of women’s empowerment in achieving environmental sustainability as highlighted by the UN SDGs, and acknowledging that 39% of women work in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector and the importance of the mandate from the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP) resolution 14/42 in which the enhancement and empowerment of women in the agricultural sector is emphasized,

Commending the work and success of the Wild For Life social media campaign as a UN Environment Programme initiative functioning to educate the public on illegal wildlife trading,

Recognizing General Assembly Resolution 71/285, “United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030” that provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation,

Reconfirming the findings of the UN report titled “Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’; Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’”, which has found that 1/8 of the world’s species have gone extinct, and that almost one third of domesticated breeds of animals used for food are under threat of extinction,

Emphasizing the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems in UNEA resolution 4/12 “Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities” that emphasizes the need to address environmental threats caused by wastewater, marine litter, and microplastics,

Mindful that the agricultural communities live off the sale of their crop and are negatively affected when other interest groups begin to encroach upon the delicate balance between farmlands and biodiversity within a nation,

Observing that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red Lists are a critical indicator of the health of the world’s biodiversity,

Emphasizes the importance of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative through the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to explore sustainable models for maintaining economic success,

1. *Recommends* that Member States create individualized governmental bodies that focus on addressing climate change and facilitates cross-sectorial approaches to mitigating biodiversity loss by:
 - a. Developing a governmental body that can work with various industries, NGOs, and international actors to improve lines of communication with local communities and work towards multi-stakeholder solutions;

- b. Implementing National Action Plans that work closely with private sectors such as the fashion and textile industries, hunting and fishing industries, and agricultural industries to commit to more sustainable practices;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to collocate and create an oversight mechanism that ensures transparency between stakeholders and private sectors, guaranteeing toxic waters are not being disposed into bodies of water, and consequently, resiliency within global biodiversity;
 - 2. *Asks* Member States to create preservation programmes which would:
 - a. Preserve forests and other biodiverse areas as national parks protected by forests;
 - b. Eliminate risk-inducing contact between humans and animals through education; therefore lowering the amount of disease spread between them;
 - c. Promote sustainable, environmental urban development that will relocate dangerous wildlife living in areas near urban centers, and planning that leaves green spaces of endemic plant and animal species inside of cities;
 - 3. *Urges* Member States to increase individual, internal funding towards efforts to promote sustained protection of valuable ecosystems:
 - a. Given that the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 encompasses protected water and not protected land;
 - b. With an emphasis on increasing the global average percentage of protected land mass;
 - c. In an effort to offset the short-term gains from exploitation of biodiverse land area:
 - i. Ask countries to provide incentives to companies to switch to sustainable models;
 - ii. Encourage member nations to contribute additional funds as a percentage of GDP towards the Global Environment Facility, with a focus on long term protection efforts;
 - d. Promote organizations that protect vulnerable species through breeding programs and wildlife rehabilitation;
 - 4. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate with NGOs to restore-forests, jungles, deserts, and tundras, as outlined by SDG 15, "Life on Land" to focus upon developing sustainable agriculture and reducing water waste by:
 - a. Promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems;
 - b. Halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss;
 - 5. *Further recommends* the international community addresses biodiversity loss and loss of species worldwide:

- a. Maintains a focus upon the detrimental effects of deforestation and lumbering and lack of regulation in the lumber industry;
 - b. Outlines a campaign for global awareness and education on this issue be heavily instituted by all Member States;
6. *Encourages* Member States to facilitate climate science education in primary education systems curriculum with a focus on biodiversity loss and create jobs in sectors that promote and sustain the conservation of plant and animal species;
7. *Encourages* Member States to support measures for sustainable agriculture supported by reformed international trade policies such as increased policy space for developing countries to effectively promote food security, farmers' livelihoods, and rural development;
8. *Recommends* the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Commission to Increase Policy Space to forefront sustainable agriculture by reassessing global economic governance structure to allow developing countries to become proactive norm setters in the global community;
9. *Recommends* that Member States create individualized governmental bodies that focus on addressing climate change and facilitates cross-sectorial approaches to mitigating biodiversity loss by:
 - a. Developing a governmental body that can work with various industries, NGOs, and international actors to improve lines of communication with local communities and work towards multi-stakeholder solutions;
 - b. Implementing National Action Plans (NAPs) that work closely with private sectors such as the fashion and textile industries, hunting and fishing industries, and agricultural industries to commit to more sustainable practices;
10. *Invites* NGOs and Member States to work together to share knowledge and information regarding biodiversity loss around the world, in collaboration with Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), to better concentrate and align efforts to preserve natural life;
11. *Encourages* Member States promote policies that will encourage NGOs to restore their forests, jungles, deserts, and tundras, as outlined by SDG 15, "Life on Land" to focus upon developing sustainable agriculture and reducing water waste by:
 - a. Promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, through the means of NGOs;
 - b. Partnering with NGOs to halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss;
 - c. Promote organizations that protect vulnerable species through breeding programs and wildlife rehabilitation;
12. *Strongly encourages* Member States adopt the practice of flood irrigation to curb loss of biodiversity during floods including:
 - a. Adopting the practice of redirecting flood water to irrigation systems where it can be led to farms to irrigate crops;

- b. Emphasizing how redirecting flood water can protect biodiversity along coastal or lakefront areas by protecting it against inundation;
13. *Calls upon* Member States to implement policies that promote citizens to reduce their carbon footprints and focus upon education about the consequences of carbon footprints and the implications energy waste has on terrestrial ecosystems;
14. *Draws attention to* the importance of sustainable infrastructure within cities as well as rural areas (such as roads, buildings, and bridges) and expresses the hope to conduct research on urban sprawl's impact on biodiversity as well as suggests protocols regarding sustainable cities and sustainable farming techniques in terms of conservation zones;
15. *Encourages* international cooperation through the defining and classification of Ecological Conservation Zones in areas identified by Member States as under risk, as determined and designated by Member States over their own sovereign territory, but generally described as areas where there has been a consistent degradation of habitat, species loss, or any anthropological risks, (including illegal industry, smuggling, or refugee crises); Such zones would be exempt from any industrial operations or urban expansion;
16. *Recommends* sustainable infrastructure to keep cities contained without sprawling into biodiversity hotspot zones by building upon and expanding the concepts in the UN Industrial Development Organization's Bridges for Cities programmes;
17. *Encourages* the creation of a program to teach and establish sustainable irrigation practices in LDCs for the purpose of improving biodiversity through controlling political stability;
18. *Encourages establishment of* a commission for international cooperation in the collection of ecological information in Less Developed Countries to preserve biodiversity in areas where it is at the highest risk, record species information, species diversity, and tracking of these figures over time for the sake of determining biodiversity loss, and provide valuable information and advice which could be applied toward future policies to preserve biodiversity;
19. *Suggests* all Member States work towards achieving the *Aichi Biodiversity Targets* with increased stress of the necessity of reaching these targets as soon as possible;
20. *Determined* that through support for experts in the field, such as faculty and researchers in zoos, biodiversity can be protected and promoted internationally especially by:
 - a. Encouraging the zoo industry to research while also promoting the industries educational programs for the populations visiting these industries;
 - b. Further invites the zoo industry to encourage a set of protective guidelines and written standards for zoos or national parks to induce education and proper care of wildlife within the industry's care;
21. *Draws attention to* the seventeen most biodiverse Member States, and encourages the international community to consider allocating further resources and attention to these Member States, specifically with the expert advice of scientists, so as to collect data and make recommendations;

22. *Encourages* Member States to work amongst each other as well as continued work with NGOs, to develop domestic and regional programmes focusing on best practice sharing for conservation and resource management, especially programs that will allow for Member States to collaborate with NGOs on protecting environments that extend beyond domestic borders and allow Member States to voluntarily share information and resources;
23. *Requests* that participating Member States broaden their conservation efforts into both ex-situ and in-situ methods of conservation, these being efforts that address conservation outside of the natural world, and efforts utilize ecosystems and/or national habitats, respectively;
24. *Urges* Member States to increase attention and resources towards efforts to promote sustained protection of valuable ecosystems in line with *Aichi Biodiversity Target 11* encompassing protected water and putting emphasis on increasing the global average percentage of protected land mass;
25. *Encourages* Member States provide incentives to companies to switch to sustainable models in an effort to offset the short-term gains from exploitation of biodiverse land areas and support less developed Member States in their efforts to protect their natural land areas through partnerships with NGOs;
26. *Suggests* maintenance of at least 40% of all habitable lands, including forests, marshlands, riverbanks, lakes, and native land, without any industrial intervention;
27. *Advises* Member States to invest in projects, such as desalination plants, that will curb the onset of harmful climate change effects including rising sea levels, the pollution of seas and oceans, and further droughts;
28. *Recommends* that desalination plants be placed by respective Member States at the shores of beaches with “acceptable” levels of salinity to supply desalinated water:
 - a. Noting that through sea water reverse osmosis, the water deficit can be closed and drinkable, clean water can be produced;
 - b. Asserting associated projects on water transmission, reservoirs and distribution, urging the conservation of water, non-revenue water reduction, and revenue collection efficiency improvement;
29. *Encourages* the creation of Public Private Partnerships (PPP's):
 - a. Recognize corporations that contribute heavily to emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants that harm surrounding flora and fauna alike, and encouraging said corporations to limit their emissions of greenhouse gases;
 - b. Encourage the creation of nationally-regulated mandates that reduce the previous caps of pollutant gases' output in nations;
30. *Recommends* Member States implement a media campaign informing users of this crisis and methods through which they can contribute to halting it:

- a. Advertisements of pictures and/or videos displaying everyday, harmful choices made by consumers and explaining their harmful effects in few, impactful words;
 - b. Advertisements of pictures and/or videos displaying the impacts of said practices on the animals and plants of regional habitats and environments;
 - c. Creation and spreading of a hashtag, such as #HaltBiodiversityLoss, across different social media platforms, and “sponsoring” said hashtag on Twitter;
 - d. Creation of social media pages across different platforms with the sole purpose of shedding light on biodiversity loss within the respective state and ways through which citizens may combat it;
 - e. Promote the development and distribution of resource materials for wider publicity in mass mediums such as TV/Radio, print media advertisements, advertorials, featured articles as well as digital media to enhance the visibility of the programme;
31. *Recommends* Member States lead an initiative in offering support in terms of materials and framework to SIDS and LDCs for increasing sustainable agricultural practices by:
- a. Training agriculturalists in regions with unsustainable agricultural practices;
 - b. Expand on the existing Advisory Committee for the 2021 Food Systems Summit to create a top-down oversight process for an international agricultural, forestry, fishing, and hunting biome-specific education and regulation system:
 - i. Providing sufficient knowledge for farmers, fishers, foresters, and hunters to practice producing sustainably with the goal of increasing biodiversity;
 - ii. Facilitating exchange of information from the Environmental Monitoring program that will be applied regionally to its surrounding Member States, in order to educate and develop sustainable agricultural practices which will subsequently keep producers accountable for their sustainable farming practices;
 - c. Working toward the overall goal of creating sustainable communities with the purpose of connecting environmental, economic, and infrastructural development, particularly in coastal regions;
32. *Recommends* programmes to educate large companies regarding the way their fossil fuel usage affects biodiversity loss, organized by Member States and international entities:
- a. Requests that this educational curriculum contains two main topics: Alternatives to the amount of fossil fuel currently being used and the effects fossil fuel usage has on biodiversity;
33. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP to explore the possibility of establishing annual regional conservation caucuses similar to the International Conservation Caucus to share information regarding the transportation of illicit trade items:

- a. These regional conservation caucuses create a forum for multinational corporations, NGOs, and bilateral and multilateral development organizations to combat illegal poaching and halt biodiversity loss;
34. *Encourages* regional organizations to create programs similar to the National Biodiversity Network with an aim to streamline the collection of biodiversity data, bolster the communication between public and private entities, and implement an annual biodiversity conference to diffuse biodiversity data and innovations;
35. *Urges* the enhancement of women's agency, participation, and leadership in biodiversity:
 - a. Encourages the enhancement of governance mechanisms that allow for active participation of women in biodiversity decision making;
 - b. Reminds the importance of protection of right for indigenous women for equitable access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge;
 - c. Emphasizes the importance of enacting and reforming legislation for secure tenure rights and the equitable access to and control of agricultural land;
36. *Emphasizes* the weight of gender equality on environmentalism and encourages the passing of legislation intended to improve the working conditions for women:
 - a. Commits to this by closing the gender wage gap, creating work environments free from harassment and discrimination and recognizes that women are disproportionately;
37. *Recommends* the regional adaptation of the United Kingdom's Forestry Commission portals for specific ecosystems to educate the public with an aim to increase public engagement to combat biodiversity loss regarding the following:
 - a. Supporting priority habitats and priority species;
 - b. Conserving ancient and native habitats;
 - c. Methods to increase the stability of habitats;
 - d. Bolstering the communication between communities and relevant biodiversity organizations;
 - e. Raise public awareness through organizing a series of activities such as events, workshops, seminars and conferences to increase public outreach and community participation in the programme;
 - f. Further invites nation states to create legislation considering private sector companies and NGOs to submit quarterly reports to their Ministry of Environments about the percentage of land deforested and on discharges to water (rivers, seas and oceans);
38. *Further recommends* all Member States collaborate with the IUCN in providing an international database including a range of information on endangered and threatened species, such as

population size, habitat, and ecology, that helps inform conservation decisions relative to varying regions;

39. *Recommends* an action plan for Member States to educate the citizens of their respective nations and encourage college students to pursue an environmental education;
40. *Bearing in mind* the necessity to study the environment by offering them scholarships and grant opportunities to study and develop methods for industries to implement biodiversity-friendly processes, encouraging a requirement for the scholarship is the students participate in research after graduation for a certain period of time by:
 - a. Encouraging public universities and high schools to begin a pathway to research;
 - b. Calling for expansion of the Indian Green Skill Development Programme focusing on developing skills among the youth in the environment and forest sector;
 - c. Creating an "Environment Awareness Day," or days, to remind and/or bring awareness to the citizens of the relevance of the issue and how they may contribute to halting the biodiversity loss.