UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

5 - 8 SEPTEMBER **2024**
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FAMUN 2024

DELEGATE'S **HANDBOOK**

Procedures and Flow of the Debate

FAMUN: SIMULATION AFFILIATED TO WIMUN

FAMUN has the honor to be the first simulation in Brazil affiliated to the World Federation of United Nations Associations International Model United Nations (WIMUN).

This official affiliation means that FAMUN is committed to the WIMUN approach, which offers the most accurate simulation of the United Nations in terms of leadership structure, rules of procedure, and flow of debate.

The rules of procedure and flow of the debate of the United Nations Environment Assembly presented in this handbook follow the WIMUN approach.

More information at: **https://wfuna.org/wimun**

THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY[1]

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the deliberative organ of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment.

UNEA meets every two years to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law. It addresses the critical environmental challenges facing the world today, as the triple planetary crisis: Pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.

The establishment of the Environment Assembly was the culmination of decades of international efforts, initiated at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, in 1972, and aimed at creating a coherent system of international environmental governance. The establishment of the UNEP resulted from this conference.

UNEA, however, was created in June 2012, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), when global leaders decided to strengthen the United Nations work towards the environmental agenda. UNEA was then established as part of the UNEP, replacing its Governing Council.

The Assembly is composed of 193 Member States and is led by a Bureau and its President. The Bureau is composed of ten Ministers of the Environment for a term of two years. The Bureau assists the President.

Throughout the year, Member States engage in Open-ended meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The Committee contributes to the preparation of the agenda of the UN Environment Assembly, provides advice to the Assembly on policy matters, prepares decisions for adoption by the UN Environment Assembly and oversees their implementation. Although the CPR drafts most resolutions that are negotiated by the Assembly, Member States can table resolutions if they so desire.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives was formally established as a subsidiary organ of the Governing Assembly (now the UN Environment Assembly) in May 1985. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis led by a five-member Bureau elected for a period of two years.

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[1] The rules of procedure and flow of the debate of the United Nations Environment Assembly presented in this handbook follow the World Federation of United Nations Associations International Model United Nations (WIMUN) approach. FAMUN is the first simulation in Brazil to be affiliate to WIMUN.

THE STAGES OF UNEA SESSIONS

FAMUN 2024 has two UNEA simulations in English: High School – United Nations Environment Assembly 3 and University – United Nations Environment Assembly.

The simulation of UNEA is divided into three parts:

A. UNEA Opening Plenary

The simulation begins with an Opening Plenary of the UN Environment Assembly, which is a formal meeting divided into three segments:

1. **Review and adopt the Organization of Work** which details how long delegates have to deliver their statements during the General Debate and how the time will be organized during the Assembly sessions. The presentation of the Organization of Work is the first order of business, which must be adopted by consensus before the Assembly can begin its General Debate.

2. **Engage in an Interactive Session with specialists** to give delegates an opportunity to deepen their knowledge on the topic they will be debating. The interactive session will begin with a statement delivered by one or more specialists, followed by Q&A from the delegates. **Note: In FAMUN 2024 the interactive session with specialists will be *online* and take place before the conference, between 26-30 August 2024.**

3. **Convene the General Debate** where delegations will have an opportunity to make an opening statement on the topic "Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development". Any delegation wishing to make a statement during the General Debate must subscribe to the Speakers' List before the debate begins.

B. Informal consultations

The simulation continues with informal consultation sessions, where the rules of procedure are suspended and where most of the time in the Assembly is spent.

1. **Allow different regional groups to draft a resolution.** Once the Plenary is adjourned, the delegates will move into informal consultations to begin the process of drafting a resolution. Before splitting into different regional groups, delegates must agree on a common structure for the operative section of the resolution. **Note: Considering the FAMUN 2024 schedule, the operative section will**

be previously structured in 3 subtopics by the Bureau. This structure must guide delegates through the negotiations and drafting of the resolution in all regional groups.

2. **Merge the different drafts.** Each regional group will pick one delegate to lead the negotiations on how to merge the different draft resolutions into one draft resolution that is later reviewed paragraph by paragraph by the Assembly. The regional groups can switch the Head Delegate who is leading negotiations on their behalf as often they want so other delegates can have a chance to lead the negotiations on behalf of their group.

3. **Submit the draft**. Once the one draft resolution is submitted to the Bureau, they will prepare the document for a line by line review.

4. **Review the draft resolution line by line** in a formal-informal debate to create a compilation text that contains a complete list of amendments proposed by delegations. These amendments are never voted on during informal consultations. Every time the wording of an entire paragraph has been agreed to by the Assembly it should be marked "Agreed ad ref" to indicate that the Assembly has temporarily agreed to the text in that paragraph until the entire negotiation process has been completed.

5. **Debate the amendments** proposed during the line by line review. This takes place in an informal-informal debate where delegates talk to each other with the goal of reaching consensus on the amendments that have been proposed. During these informal consultations, delegates have the power to accept, reject or agree to an alternate wording of the amendments.

6. Before start debating the amendments, delegates can choose if they want the Facilitators to moderate the informal consultations on the amendments, or if they want to do it themselves. It is function of the Assembly to take this decision.

7. If there are any amendments that the Assembly is having difficulty reaching consensus on, they should be "bracketed" or set aside for further discussion after all the other amendments have been debated, so that the Assembly can first focus on those amendments that are easier to reach agreement on.

8. After going through all the amendments at least once, the Assembly should return to those amendments that have been "bracketed". Facilitators should be present to help delegates reach agreement on these amendments.

9. **Final Review**. After all amendments have been resolved, the Facilitator should scroll through the entire resolution paragraph by

paragraph and ask the delegates to carefully read the text to make sure there are no further objections.

10. If new amendments are proposed during the final review, they will be discussed in the end, until consensus is reached in each one of the new amendments and all paragraphs are marked *Agreed ad ref*.

11. If consensus has been reached early and time still remains in the Assembly, it can go back and add more text or even another sub-topic, if there is enough time to do it. What new text is added must be reviewed and any amendments that are proposed to the new text must be debated in the manner set forth in this handbook.

12. Before the formal adopting the resolution, delegates will have the opportunity to deliver a statement to explain their position aiming at publicly express their support to the resolution, make comments about the negotiation process or still emphasize specific parts of the draft resolution that are important to their delegation. If delegates are not completely satisfied with the final text, it is also possible to make a statement to let the Assembly know if there is a particular paragraph that your delegation wants to disassociate from. That is the official term that is used when governments want to inform the Assembly that they do not agree with text in a particular paragraph.

C. UNEA Closing Plenary

The final phase of the simulation includes a Closing Plenary led by the President in a formal meeting, where delegates will adopt their resolution by consensus and make statements explaining their position.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. There are no moderated and unmoderated caucuses. That means that during the Opening Plenary General Debate and the UNEA sessions statements are never interrupted. The Speaker's List is followed until all speakers have had an opportunity to speak.

2. Passing notes during Formal Meetings is not allowed.

3. The presiding officer during meetings will never ask: "Are any points or motions on the floor?".

4. Parliamentary points (e.g., Points of Personal Privilege, Points of Information, and Points of Inquiry) and motions (e.g., Motion for

Moderated or Unmoderated Caucuses, Motion to Set Agenda, Motions to Set Speaking Time, Motion to Move to Voting Procedures, etc.) **are not allowed** during the simulation. These are parliamentary rules of procedure, and they are not used at the UN because it is not a Parliament.

5. Delegates will not be allowed to yield their time to the President, Facilitator or another delegation.

6. The only point that is allowed during a formal meeting is a Point of Order, which is only to be used if a delegate feels the rules of procedure are not being following properly.

7. Delegates must raise a Point of Order without being prompted.

8. Signatories are not required in order for a resolution to be considered. When there are multiple versions of a draft resolution on an agenda item, the Assembly will merge the drafts so that no more than one resolution is submitted to the Bureau for consideration.

9. During informal consultations, there will be no rules of procedure. Delegates are encouraged to work together to achieve consensus on the wording of the resolution that is under consideration.

10. During the line-by-line review, delegates can propose changes to the draft resolution. In this process, delegates can indicate if they agree or not with the proposed amendments. Delegates must wait until the end of the line-by-line review to start debating the content of the amendments.

11. If the Assembly is not able to reach consensus, the resolution will be withdrawn and will not be voted on. **However, in FAMUN 2024, the resolution must be adopted by consensus.**

12. Delegates can make a statement during the Closing Plenary to put on record any comments they may have about the outcome of their negotiations or any reservations they may have on the resolution if it is adopted by consensus.

TERMS USED IN THE WIMUN APPROACH

1. **Bureau:** Refers to the President and Vice-Presidents who are officials elected by the Assembly to preside over meetings. **For FAMUN 2024, the President and the Vice-President were appointed in advance.**

2. **Facilitator:** The Facilitator is responsible for presiding over the informal consultations and has the responsibility of helping the delegates reach consensus on the text of the draft resolution.

3. **Tabling a resolution:** It refers to the act of submitting a resolution to the Bureau for consideration. This action does not require signatories.

4. **Paragraphs:** Model UN conferences around the world are used to referring to the clauses or sub-clauses of a resolution. At the United Nations, these are referred to as paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.

5. **Formal-informals**: Are informal consultations presided by the Facilitator. During these meetings, delegates are encouraged to review the draft resolution, paragraph by paragraph, and propose amendments to the text. These amendments are never voted during informal consultations, they are only negotiated until delegations reach an agreement. There are no rules of procedure during a formal-informal meeting.

6. **Informal-informals:** Are informal consultations to allow delegates to negotiate the text of a draft resolution. The amendments cannot be voted during this process. Delegates are encouraged to continue negotiating each amendment until they reach agreement, either for accept the amendment, delete it or accept an alternative text to the amendment. During informal-informal meetings, there are no rules of procedure.

7. **Consensus:** Consensus occurs when all of the delegations reach agreement on the wording of every paragraph in a draft resolution and are ready to adopt it without voting on it. This is the goal of the negotiation process. In order to reach consensus delegates have to be ready to make compromises.

8. **Explanation of position**: When consensus has been reached and a resolution is adopted without a vote, any delegation is given the opportunity to make a statement about any reservations they may have about particular paragraphs that are included in the draft resolution. It is possible to agree to adopt a resolution without a vote and still have elements of a resolution that a Member State is not entirely pleased with. Or it may be to express their disappointment that something important was left out of the resolution.

TERMS NOT USED IN THE WIMUN APPROACH

1. **Dais:** This term is not used at the UN and is therefore not a part of the terminology of the WIMUN approach. The proper term to use

when referring to the officials presiding over a meeting is the Bureau.

2. **Honourable Delegates:** These terms are used in a Parliament and since the UN is not a Parliament it is not appropriate to use them during the simulation of UN meetings. When making a statement during the General Debate, delegates should address his/her comments to the person presiding over the meeting (e.g., Mr./Madame President) and not to the delegates. Real UN diplomats **never** begin speeches using the word "Honourable" before the presiding officer's title.

3. **House:** In some conferences, the person presiding over a meeting may say, "Will the House come to order" if the delegates are making too much noise. Again, since the UN is not a Parliament, it is inappropriate to refer to UNEA or the Committee as the "House" when addressing delegates.

4. **Friendly and unfriendly amendments:** These terms are not used at the UN and do not apply to the negotiation process followed by the WIMUN Approach, which focuses on reaching a consensus among all delegates.

5. **Moderated and unmoderated caucuses:** These terms do not exist at the UN. What does exist are formal-informals and informal-informals, which are similar in some respects but differ in other respects (see definition above).

6. **Clauses:** Model UN conferences around the world refer to the clauses of a draft resolution. In contrast, the editorial guidelines at the UN refer to them as paragraphs and sub-paragraphs. The term "clause(s)" is **never used** when referring to real UN resolutions.

DRAFTING A RESOLUTION

Every resolution is divided into two sections that consist of preambular and the operative paragraphs.

The preambular paragraphs set the stage and context for the operative section. Preambular paragraphs are not numbered and begin with a word or phrase in the present participle (e.g., *Recalling*) and always ends with comma.

Operative paragraphs begin with a word or phrase in the present tense (e.g., *Encourages*) and always end with a semi-colon except for the last operative paragraph that ends with a period.

The words or phrases used to begin a paragraph are always italicized and never underlined.

The best way to learn about how to write a good resolution is to study and compare them: **https://www.unep.org/resources/resolutions-treaties-and-decisions/UN-Environment-Assembly-5-2**

Here are some tips about what goes into a good resolution:

Type and order of content to include in the preamble, with examples for each

When reading this section, please keep in mind that the aim is to give you an idea of the range of content that could be included in a resolution and does not mean that this content is always included in a resolution. It also aims to serve as a guideline on how to decide the order in which to include content when drafting a resolution or merging content from different resolutions on the same agenda item.

1. The preamble usually includes past actions that the Assembly has taken on the agenda item that is being discussed and also expresses its concern over why a particular issue is important for the international community to focus on:

> *The United Nations Environment Assembly,*
>
> *Recalling* its resolution 4/1 on innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, which acknowledged that, along with other sustainable production and consumption approaches, a more circular economy, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured, recycled or recovered and thus maintained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they are made, and the generation of waste, especially hazardous waste, is avoided or minimized, and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented or reduced, can contribute significantly to sustainable consumption and production,

2. If there are other actions that the United Nations has taken on this agenda item that would go next:

> *Recalling also* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",

If the same word is used twice in a row to begin a paragraph, the second time it is used, the word also is added and italicized. If the same verb is used three times in a row, then you must add "further" the third time it is used (e.g., *Recalling further*).

3. Ater highlighting the actions of the United Nations, it is common to add paragraphs that recall reports distributed to Member States by the Secretary-General:

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on improving global road safety and the recommendations contained therein,

4. At this point, it is usually good to add some information about the concerns that are driving the debate of the agenda item that is under consideration:

Expressing its concern that the number of road traffic deaths still remains unacceptably high, with an estimated 1.24 million lives lost in 2010, and that only 7 per cent of the world's population is covered by adequate laws that address all behavioural risk factors, including the non-use of helmets, safety belts and child restraints, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed and the inappropriate use of cellular telephones, including texting, while driving,

Also expressing its concern that half of all road traffic deaths worldwide involve pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists, and that some developing countries have inadequate infrastructure and insufficient policies in place to protect these vulnerable road users,

5. If there is any impact that has resulted from the actions the UN has taken that the delegates wish to draw attention to, this would go after expressing their concerns:

Noting with satisfaction that targeted steps to reduce road traffic injuries undertaken by the United Nations, including in the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, have yielded positive results, and recognizing in this regard that more than 100 Member States, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives organized pedestrian safety activities during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week, held from 6 to 12 May 2013,

6. The preamble would also note any actions taken by Member States, specialized UN agencies, programmes and funds, and/or regional Assemblies:

Commending the Governments of Brazil, Mozambique, Romania and Thailand and the World Health Organization for the successful launch, in May 2013 in the context of the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly, of the Global Alliance for Care of the Injured,

7. Recognition of regional commissions would come next, if this information was available:

Acknowledging the important interregional efforts of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in organizing the Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum to promote the implementation of United Nations road safety conventions and to facilitate the exchange of experiences in this field among European and Asian countries,

8. If there are any other outcome documents or reports delegates want to highlight this would be included at the end of the preambular section:

> *Taking note* of the report of the Commission for Global Road Safety entitled Safe Roads for All: A Post-2015 Agenda for Health and Development,

9. Please note, only UN documents are referred to in the body of an UN Environment Assembly resolution. If there are other resources, reports or books that were used while doing research and they were not published by the UN, they should not be included in the resolution.

Content to be included in operative paragraphs, with examples

First and foremost, the operative paragraphs should consist of recommended actions that address the concerns outlined in the preamble.

Sometimes there is a sequence of paragraphs the lead up to the recommended action. Consider the following example of operative paragraphs:

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas, and in this regard takes into account road safety as part of the effort to achieve sustainable development;

2. *Commends* Member States that have developed national plans that are in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, and encourages Member States that have not yet developed such plans to do so, paying special attention to the needs of all road users, in particular pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users, as well as issues related to sustainable mobility;

3. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to nominate, as appropriate, national focal points for the Decade of Action to coordinate and facilitate national activities for the Decade;

In this instance, operative paragraphs 2 and 3 contain two related recommended actions. Operative paragraph 1 and the first half of operative paragraph 2 set up these recommended actions by establishing why they are important and by drawing attention to actions already taken by some Member States (without naming who they are) that are linked to these recommendations.

What is interesting about this example is that operative paragraph 1 and the first part of paragraph 2 would ordinarily be content that we would expect to find somewhere in the preamble. But because it is being used to justify a specific action in the operative section, it makes more sense to

include this in the operative section as a lead into a specific recommendation.

More details about editorial guidelines for drafting resolutions can be found at: **http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/71/editorialguidelines.pdf**

Comments on the use of sub-paragraphs

Model UN resolutions tend to include sub-paragraphs much more often than real UN resolutions. One reason may be that delegates like to include more detail in their resolutions. Sub-paragraphs may appear less frequently in real resolutions because diplomats are aware that the more detailed the text is, the more difficult it is to negotiate. Reaching consensus often requires making compromises and this may result in paragraphs that are more general in nature.
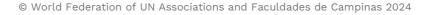
ANNEX 1 – REGIONAL GROUPS[1]

Regional Group	Member States
Africa + Arab League	Angola, Algeria, Botsuana, Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestine*, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Santa Lucia, Uruguay, Venezuela.
Asia-Pacific	Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.
Western Europe + JUSSCANZ**	Andorra, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

*Palestine participates at the UNEA as an observer State, which means that this delegation can participate in the negotiation process but does not have decision power. Palestine participates in the negotiations in a matter similar to the major groups and stakeholders. Please see the instructions on the next page.

**JUSSCANZ is the group composed by Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand.

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[1] For more information about the regional groups at the UN: https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/groups-member-states

ANNEX 2 – MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS[2]

Major groups and stakeholders	Children & Youth Major Group
	Global Forest Coalition
	IBON International
	Indigenous People Major Group
	Inuit Circumpolar Council
	Local Authorities Major Group
	PAX for Peace
	Third World Network
	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Major groups and stakeholders are civil societies organizations and entities that participate in UNEA negotiations. These representations can participate in the entire UNEA negotiation process, in accordance with the following instructions (which also apply to Palestine):

- Major groups and stakeholders can make a speech in the General Debate during the UNEA Opening Plenary if they wish to do so. All major groups and stakeholders will make their speeches after all Member States have spoken.

- Major groups and stakeholders can choose which regional group they want to participate during the draft of resolutions, taking into account their political agendas. However, we recommend that there is at least one major group or stakeholder following each one of the regional groups so that civil society can directly influence all groups.

- Major groups and stakeholders can propose amendments during the line by line review.

- Major groups and stakeholders can fully participate in the debate of the amendments. However, they cannot present an objection to an amendment alone. If they want to raise an objection, a Member State of UNEA must support this objection. This is because Palestine and the major groups can participate in the discussions, but they do not have power decision.

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[2] For more information about major groups and stakeholders at the UNEA: https://www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement/major-groups-modalities/major-group-categories

- Major groups and stakeholders can make a speech during the UNEA Closing Plenary if they wish to do so. All major groups and stakeholders will make their speeches after all Member States have spoken.

ANNEX 3 – PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS TO A DRAFT RESOLUTION

The amendments must be proposed orally during the line by line review, in the informal consultations. The Facilitator will read each paragraph of the draft resolution, in the order in which it appears in the document, and he/she will ask for comments, reactions, or objections to the paragraph.

In this moment, delegates can propose amendments, which means any changes they would like to make in the draft resolution.

Delegates can propose, orally, the following amendments:

1. **Add** something new to the paragraph, such as a word or a phrase;

2. **Delete** something from the paragraph;

3. **Maintain** something that was deleted by another delegate;

4. **Replace** words or sentences to other ones;

5. **Add a new paragraph** with a new content, that is not mentioned in the resolution;

6. **Propose an alternative version to the paragraph**, which means that the idea of a paragraph is kept but the amendment change the way it is written.

Attention!

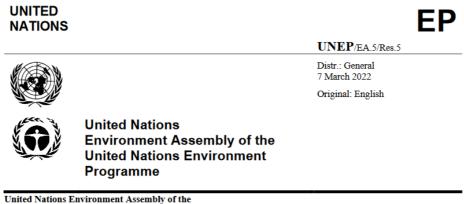Amendments will not be debated or negotiated during the line by line review.

The amendments will only be debated and negotiated after the line by line review, when delegates will negotiate the changes proposed in the document.

Amendments will not be voted in any moment during the informal consultations.

ANNEX 4 – SAMPLE RESOLUTION

UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.5/Res.5

Distr.: General
7 March 2022

Original: English

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Fifth session
Nairobi (hybrid), 22 and 23 February 2021
and 28 February–2 March 2022

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022

5/5.   Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Underlining the importance of strengthening actions for nature for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted thereunder, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 and the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development 2020–2030; looking forward to the adoption and implementation of an ambitious, balanced, practical, effective and robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and noting the Leaders' Pledge for Nature: United to Reverse Biodiversity Loss by 2030 for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services entitled Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services1 and the contribution of Working Group I, entitled Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, and Working Group II, entitled Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, to the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and taking note of other relevant reports,

Recognizing the interdependencies between biodiversity loss, pollution, climate change, desertification and land degradation and their interlinkages with

human well-being, including health, and the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems,

Recognizing also that a key opportunity for strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is to enhance cooperation, implementation and the scaling up of nature-based solutions, while ensuring their social and environmental safeguards, given that nature-based solutions are efficient and effective when designed on a context-specific basis to achieve multiple benefits and applied in accordance with the best available science,

Recalling decisions V/6, VI/12, VII/11 and IX/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the ecosystem approach, and its decision 14/5 on biodiversity and climate change, and recognizing, for the parties to the Convention, the indispensable role of the Convention in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and in the integrated management of natural resources,

Acknowledging the need for a multilaterally agreed definition of the concept of nature-based solutions, cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches, and in the light of concerns about the potential misuse of the concept of nature-based solutions,

1.   *Decides* that nature-based solutions are 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 recognizes that nature-based solutions:

(a) Respect social and environmental safeguards, in line with the three "Rio conventions" (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), including such safeguards for local communities and indigenous peoples;

(b) Can be implemented in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and can be managed adaptively;

(c) Are among the actions that play an essential role in the overall global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including by effectively and efficiently addressing major social, economic and environmental challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, desertification, food security, disaster risks, urban development, water availability, poverty eradication, inequality and unemployment, as well as social development, sustainable economic development, human health and a broad range of ecosystem services;

(d) Can help to stimulate sustainable innovation and scientific research;

2.   *Recognizes* that nature-based solutions may contribute significantly to climate action, while recognizing the need for analysis of their effects, including in the long term, and acknowledging that they do not replace the need for rapid, deep

and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but can improve action for adaptation and resilience to and mitigation of climate change and its impact;

3.   *Also recognizes* the potential of sustainable and environmentally sound bio-based products, innovation and technologies that result from nature-based solutions, when they contribute to sustainable consumption and production and are beneficial to nature and consistent with international commitments and relevant multilateral agreements on biodiversity, climate, environment and sustainable development, while cognizant of the potential associated risks, including for local communities and indigenous peoples;

4.   *Acknowledges* that the concept of nature-based solutions is cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches identified under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other management and conservation approaches carried out under existing national policy and legislative frameworks and established under relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

5.   *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources and to further support the implementation of nature-based solutions, as defined in the present resolution, to convene intergovernmental consultations in a transparent, inclusive, regionally balanced manner, striving for gender balance, in order to undertake the following:

(a) Compile examples of best practice in nature-based solutions, based on the best available science;

(b) Assess existing and discuss potential new proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines to address divergences, with a view to achieving a common understanding among Member States for the implementation of nature-based solutions, including to support Member States in designing, implementing and evaluating nature-based solutions, building on existing work, initiatives and platforms, as appropriate, and without prejudice to existing efforts and initiatives of and new proposals from individual Member States;

(c) Identify options for supporting sustainable investment in nature-based solutions and share information on bilateral and multilateral sources of finance to enable developing countries to develop and deploy nature-based solutions;

6.   *Also requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to support the intergovernmental consultations, including enabling the participation of developing countries and relevant partners and stakeholders, consistent with applicable United Nations rules;

7.   *Calls upon* Member States and the Executive Director, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, to support the implementation of the present resolution in partnership with local communities, women and youth as well as with indigenous peoples, with their free, prior and informed consent, as their knowledge and methods have proved effective in conserving, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity;

8.   *Calls upon* Member States to follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach when designing, implementing and monitoring nature-based solutions.

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ANNEX 5 – VERBS USED IN RESOLUTIONS

Preambular phrases in resolutions

Preambular paragraphs describe the problems that need to be solved as well as the past actions taken by the UN. Select a preambular phrase and italicize it to start your preambular paragraph. End the preambular paragraph with a comma.

Acknowledging	*Fully aware*
Acting	*Guided by*
Adhering	*Having considered the report*
Affirming	*Hopeful that*
Agreeing with the observations	*Indignant at*
Alarmed by	*Inspired by*
Appreciating	*Keeping in mind*
Aware of	*Mindful of*
Aware that	*Noting that*
Bearing in mind the principle	*Noting with appreciation*
Bearing in mind the results	*Noting with regret*
Believing that	*Persuaded*
Concerned about	*Reaffirming*
Concurring with the proposals	*Recalling*
Condemning	*Recognizing*
Conscious of	*Regretting*
Conscious that	*Reiterating*
Considering that	*Sharing the concern*
Convinced that	*Stressing*
Deploring	*Striving to*
Desirous of	*Taking into account the*
Emphasizing	*Taking into consideration*
Encouraged	*Taking note of the observations*
Expressing concern	*Taking note of the report*
Expressing its appreciation	*Underlying*
Faithful to	*Viewing with concern*
Fearing	*Welcoming*
Wishing to	

Operative phrases in resolutions

Operative paragraphs describe solutions in detail. Select an operative phrase to start your operative paragraph. Make sure the operative paragraph is numbered accordingly. End the operative paragraph with a semicolon, except end the last operative paragraph with a period.

Accepts

Accepts with appreciation

Accepts with deep appreciation

Accepts with gratitude

Acknowledges

Adopts

Affirms

Agrees with the observations

Appeals to all States

Appoints

Approves

Authorizes

Believes that

Calls attention to

Calls the attention of

Calls upon Member States

Commends

Compliments

Concurs with the observations

Condemns

Confirms

Congratulates

Considers

Decides

Decides accordingly

Decides also

Decides further

Declares that

Demands

Denounces

Deplores

Designates

Determines that

Dissolves the Committee

Draws the attention of

Elects

Emphasizes

Empowers the Mediator

Endorses the Declaration

Endorses the urgent appeal

Entrusts the Committee

Envisages

Establishes a special fund

Establishes a target of

Exhorts all Member States to

Expresses concern over

Expresses its appreciation

Expresses its concern

Expresses its confidence

Expresses its deep appreciation

Expresses its deep concern

Expresses its firm conviction

Expresses its gratitude

Expresses its profound indignation

Expresses its satisfaction

Expresses its solidarity with

Expresses the hope

Expresses the opinion that

Extends the mandate

Firmly supports the people

Insists that

Instructs the Committee

Invites

Invites once again

Invites the attention of

Is of the opinion that

Looks forward to the meeting

Makes an urgent appeal to

Mandates the Secretary-General

Notes that

Notes with appreciation

Notes with interest

Notes with regret

Notes with satisfaction

Pays tribute to

Proclaims

Proposes

Reaffirms

Realizes

Reasserts

Recalls

Recognizes

Recommends that

Refers the report to

Regrets

Reiterates

Rejects

Reminds the States parties

Renews the mandate

Requests the Secretary-General

Resolves

Solemnly adopts

Stresses

Suggests that

Supports the efforts

Takes note of the observations

Takes note of the report

Transmits

Trusts that

Underlines

Urgently requests the Committee

Urges all States

Welcomes

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act
now

save
today
our
tomorrow

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