



Office of the President of the Assembly



United Nations
Environment Programme

September 20, 2017

Dear Friends,

I wish to make reference to the letter sent to you on 21 July, regarding the process to develop a ministerial declaration, which will be presented during the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly to be held from 4 to 6 December 2017 in Nairobi, addressing the theme: 'Towards a Pollution-Free Planet'.

In this regard, I would like to thank all delegations and stakeholders that have provided feedback and inputs to the development and improvement of the ministerial declaration. Thanks to our common work the progress made from the zero draft to the preliminary draft is considerable.

By means of this letter, I present for your consideration the **preliminary draft of the ministerial declaration** (see annex), which includes the inputs received from member States and stakeholders submitted either individually or through regional groups or ministerial fora. I invite you to consult all inputs on the following webpage: <http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/member-states-and-stakeholders-inputs-ministerial-declaration>. The Secretariat has developed a note listing all figures used in the document, with their respective sources, attached to this letter.

I would like to guide you on the upcoming steps regarding the process to develop the ministerial declaration in order to keep delegations in Nairobi, and those that are non-resident, informed about the next stages to finalize the declaration.

The precise dates of each of the milestones of this roadmap are presented hereunder:

- **October 4:** Informal consultations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preliminary draft of the ministerial declaration
- **October 6:** Deadline for inputs on the preliminary draft of the ministerial declaration
- **October 20:** Distribution of the final draft of the ministerial declaration
- **November 2:** Informal consultations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the final draft of the ministerial declaration
- **November 20:** Deadline for inputs on the final draft of the ministerial declaration
- **November 29-December 1:** Negotiations at the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi, chaired by the President of the Assembly
- **December 6:** Adoption of the ministerial declaration at the 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly



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As you can see, we are almost at the end of the road we had originally mapped out. It is now the time for us to focus on the wording of the document. In that regard, I look forward to receiving your feedback on the preliminary draft of the ministerial declaration. We encourage regional groups and member States to continue providing their inputs and ideas at latest by October 6 so we can ensure fruitful consultations, negotiations, and the finalization, and adoption of the declaration in a timely manner.

I would like to encourage you to actively engage in the process to develop further the ministerial declaration by sending your inputs to unep.sqb@unep.org.

For any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at: president.unea2@gmail.com.

It is my great hope that the new version of the ministerial declaration serves as an inspiration for further inputs from you. On a final note, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the positive approach and contributions to this process that will lead to an inspiring and meaningful ministerial declaration addressed and listened to all peoples.

Sincerely,

Dr. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta
Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica
President of the United Nations Environment Assembly

To: Ministers responsible for the Environment and Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme

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