

**Input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum**  
**UNEP**

**Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.**

SDG 3—Health: Biodiversity loss plays a critical role in the emergence of infectious diseases. Nearly 90% of emerging viruses are zoonotic and two-thirds spill over from wildlife. Invasive species, partly driven by climate change exacerbate disease emergence, threaten food security, burden health systems, and cost the global economy over \$400 billion annually. Pollution from the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare facilities, crop and animal production, and municipal systems contributes to antimicrobial resistance. Air pollution contributes to approximately 9 million deaths annually and increases risks of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

SDG 5—Gender: Climate change and biodiversity loss disproportionately affect women, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, due to their reliance on natural resources for food, medicine, and income. Pollution impacts women due to their roles in agriculture, water collection, and household chores. Exposure to pollutants and toxic chemicals can lead to respiratory diseases, reproductive health issues, and other health problems. Pregnant women are more vulnerable to pollution and toxic chemicals.

SDG 8—Economic growth: Climate and biodiversity loss have resulted in: disrupted labour markets and economic productivity in resource-dependent economies; job losses in agriculture, fisheries, and tourism sectors; supply chain vulnerabilities; and disruptions of global trade patterns.

SDG 14—Life below water: Degradation of marine ecosystems due to global heating and pollution from wastewater, nutrients, plastic and hazardous substances threatens human health. It heavily affects vulnerable communities, women and marginalized groups and disrupts livelihoods dependent on coastal and marine resources.

SDG 17—Partnerships: Inflation, Covid 19 and war in Ukraine have led to financial strain on donor countries limiting the resources available to support developing countries meet their goals in combating climate change.

**Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

**Ecosystem management:** Sustainable management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems improves environmental functions, such as clean air and water, which directly benefit human health and provide opportunities for employment. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans provide inter-

governmental frameworks to address degradation of the oceans and seas at a regional level. This involves actions such as: Reducing marine pollution through the development and implementation on regional/global protocols; Strengthening marine management for healthy oceans; Mitigating Ocean acidification; Reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; Increasing economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries; and improving scientific knowledge.

**Multilateralism:** Through development and implementation of international agreements, countries have moved forward agendas that contribute to the achievement of multiple SDGs. These platforms enable consensus-building, standard and goal setting, and form the basis for implementation of agreed actions at the national or regional level. An example is the 30x30 target in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that seeks to effectively and equitably conserve at least 30% of the Earth by 2030.

**Integrated approaches and multisectoral coordination:** The Quadripartite collaboration on One Health by the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNEP, the World Health Organization, and the World Organization for Animal Health, enhances intersectoral efforts to address health threats at the human-animal-environmental interface. It demonstrates the links between environmental degradation and human health. UNEP advances global health by integrating environmental pathways into health solutions, such as Nature for Health (N4H) working to prevent health risks by addressing environmental drivers of zoonotic spillover. Promoting sustainability and ecosystem protection, N4H mitigates health risks and enhances resilience.

**Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**

**Sustainable food systems – delivering integrated solutions for sustainable development:** transforming food systems to achieve sustainable development and improve food security, food safety, and nutrition while addressing the challenges posed by pollution and climate change. Sustainable food systems is a key pathway to deliver environmental results in an integrated way and to deliver on the commitments of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris agreement. The UN Food Systems Hub plays a key role in facilitating a coherent UN development system to support countries in transforming their food systems.

**Oceans for climate, biodiversity and pollution action:** Implementation of agreements such as the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), ocean-based climate actions in Nationally Determined Contributions, and the 30 x30 target in the Global Biodiversity Framework, together with implementation of Regional Seas Programmes, are key

measures that can accelerate progress towards achieving several SDGs.

**Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action:** UNEP is supporting 69 developing, small island, and middle-income nations to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This involves technical support via a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to: Conduct rapid reviews of key thematic areas in the NBSAP to determine coherence between national targets and actions with the GBF and relevant SDGs; Assess data gaps in institutional monitoring systems and frameworks; Analyze policies, institutions and finance mechanisms and tools for achieving coherence in GBF implementation. The initiative supports all 17 SDGs integrating environmental stewardship with socio-economic advancement.

**Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

UNEP works to accelerate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs so that it moves faster than the intensification of the crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. UNEP does this through deploying digital technologies to provide forward-looking and relevant science, promoting science-based solutions, boosting the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements that make change possible, and backing Member States to promote climate stability, live in harmony with nature and forge a pollution-free future.

The sixth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya resulted in 15 resolutions, 2 decisions, and a ministerial declaration aimed at addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution. This responds to articles III.i to III.p in the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration. The UNEA-6 resolutions inter alia advance the work of Member States on management of metals, mineral resources, chemicals and waste, environmental assistance and recovery in areas impacted by armed conflict, integrated water resource management, agriculture and industry to tackle water stress, sustainable lifestyles, and rehabilitation of degraded lands and waters.

Examples of the resolutions are:

Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally - resolution UNPE/EA.6/L.13 calls for enhanced regional collaboration and sharing knowledge, technologies, and best practices to mitigate air pollution and its impacts on health, ecosystems, and climate.

Promoting synergies, cooperation, or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments -resolution UNEP/EA.6/L.7 aims to enhance global environmental governance through improved alignment and cooperation

among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other relevant environmental instruments.

**Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**

- Adopting a One Health approach that recognizes the interconnectedness between human, animal, and environmental health is integral to delivering on the SDGs.
- Advance the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on AMR to achieve the agreed targets.
- Work towards an ambitious legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
- Accelerate global commitment on the Global Biodiversity Framework 30x30 and mobilize 200 billion dollars per year for biodiversity.
- Increase focus on Ocean-Based Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and harness the benefits of blue ecosystem for NDCs.
- Encourage adoption by financial institutions of the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles, the world's first global guiding framework for banks, insurers and investors to finance a sustainable blue economy.
- Advance the ratification of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).
- Advance from sectoral approaches to managing water pollution to integrated approaches from source-to-sea.
- Reduce systemic and national economic risks by addressing the expected cost of environmental shocks to human health, property, and productivity.
- Green trade through strengthening environmental and social provisions in trade agreements and policy formulations, to strengthen a supportive nexus between trade, environment, and development agendas.
- Embed youth perspectives in decision-making, fostering innovative solutions and ensure that action is taken to equip young people with green skills, to address inequalities and enable a just transition.