United Nations Environmental Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Third Session
Nairobi, 4-6 December 2017

3/xxx. “Clean water for all, leaving no one behind”

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that clean water from terrestrial, coastal and marine sources is essential for human wellbeing, ecosystem health, and the survival of all living species;

Highly Concerned about threats from pollution to both land and sea across the globe, the level of progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the state of the environment as reflected, inter alia, in The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017, in the UN Secretary-General’s report on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/6), in the first global integrated marine assessment (World Ocean Assessment I) of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook report, and the regional assessments of the Global Environment Outlook -Geo-6, released in 2016;

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcoming particular the inclusion therein of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and its commitment to ensure healthy life and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, particularly to end water-borne and other communicable diseases;

Recalling also the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcoming the inclusion therein of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and its commitment to protect and restore water-related ecosystems including mountains, forest, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, lakes and all part of hydrological systems, with special attention to pollution reduction, wastewater management and water quality;

Recalling also the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcoming the inclusion therein of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, while recognizing the connections between healthy and productive oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals, and the need to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities that contribute to marine debris and nutrient pollution;

Recalling also the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Target 8, that aims to reduce by 2020 pollution, including reduction of excess nutrients to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity;
Acknowledging the United Nations Environment Programme’s competence in contribution to tackling emerging issues and activities adding to pressure on the marine and terrestrial water resources, and to increasing knowledge on issues such as water quality, marine litter, ocean acidification, eutrophication and in general on pollution of all kinds;

Taking into account the contribution, which the United Nations Environment Programme can make, upon request by the concerned States, to assist them in the protection and preservation of the terrestrial water resources, the marine and coastal environment, including helping States to achieve their objectives under relevant international law; and

Recalling the three partnerships on nutrients, marine litter and wastewater, from the 2012 Manila Declaration on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

1. Requests the Executive Director to incorporate land-based pollutants affecting our coastal and marine environment, including clean water-related aspects of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in United Nations Environment Programme activities, in cooperation and coordination with relevant global and regional forums, agreements and organizations, consistent with international law, and to report on that work to the United Nations Environment Assembly at future sessions;

2. Invites the Executive Director to provide the necessary technical support to the SDG 6 – 2018 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation in the 2030 Agenda that will be launched in May/June 2018 as the consolidated input from the whole UN family to the HLPF and its in-depth review of SDG 6 on the theme “Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies”;

3. Urge all Member States to develop sound measurements and tools including establishing water quality objectives for terrestrial, coastal and marine sources, and where necessary, increase technical capacity and education for change to improve awareness and timely response to the pollution challenges;

4. Encourage all Member States to implement and promote innovative, cost effective solutions including green technologies and ecosystem based solutions for wastewater management, circular economy and to mitigate and manage pollution in order to promote environmental protection and pursue green economic growth;

5. Encourages Member States with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop strategic partnerships both within the United Nations system and with relevant international stakeholders including the private sector, NGOs, the civil society, local communities, vulnerable and disadvantaged populations groups to implement relevant action plans to reduce and prevent pollution to water, marine and coastal sources, as to restore polluted ecosystems, to share experiences and best practices and to deliver on environmental international commitments specially on SDGs 3, 6 and 14;

6. Encourage Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans to develop and expand relevant Partnerships and Protocols to target the relevant pollutants facing the region, including forming partnership with all relevant stakeholder to strengthen the engagement and awareness of the local communities to take part of finding solutions regionally and locally;

7. Calls for continued cooperation and coordination on pollution reduction in terrestrial, coastal and marine water sources among all relevant global and regional forums and organizations, including the United Nations system, in order to deliver coherently on Sustainable Development Goals 3, 6 and 14, their interrelated targets, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

8. Encourages the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take the necessary steps to adapt the system of financing for the Sustainable Development Goals with the need
to implement SDGs 3, 6 and 14, and to make efforts to support the Member States on implementation of these global development goals and all environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda;

9. **Encourages** Also Member States to work collaboratively with the United Nations Environment Programme, other international organizations including but not limited to the Global Environment Facility, multilateral banks and developing countries to mobilize the necessary financial and technical resources to find solutions to problems of land based pollution in all dimensions and possible ways; and,

10. **Request** the Executive Director to reports to the next session of the United Nations Assembly, on progress towards the implementation of this resolution.