Draft resolution calling for the synchronization of objectives and activities, especially the meetings of the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements and protocols thereto, for the efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and monitoring thereof, for cost reduction and for the effective participation of States Members of the United Nations

Proposed by the Philippines

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment and has universal membership of all 193 States Members of the United Nations and the significant involvement of United Nations entities, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector,

Recalling that the United Nations Environment Assembly is mandated to set the global environmental agenda; provide an overarching policy framework to address emerging environmental challenges; undertake policy review, dialogue and the exchange of experiences; and foster partnership for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization,

Recalling also that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his remarks to the high-level political forum on sustainable development at its meeting held in New York on 17 July 2017, urged that funding needed to be in line with the objectives of coherence and the objectives of accountability instead of the dispersion of funding,

Recalling further that, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is a need for coherence of objectives and the synchronization of the activities of multilateral environmental agreements and protocols, especially the meetings of the governing bodies of such agreements, for cost reduction, the efficient participation of United Nations Member States, and the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system,

Noting that synchronizing the meetings of the governing bodies, as well as other important meetings of the multilateral environmental agreements and protocols thereto, with sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which enjoys universal membership of all States Members of the United Nations, would optimize the presence and participation of ministers of environment in such meetings and facilitate negotiations, the adoption of decisions and the implementation of timely actions on key environmental issues,

1. Decides that the United Nations Environment Assembly, through its President, shall initiate the synchronization of the objectives and activities of all the multilateral environmental agreements and protocols thereto, including the meetings of the governing bodies of such agreements, for the efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and monitoring thereof, for cost reduction and for the effective participation of all United Nations Member States;

2. Also decides that the United Nations Environment Assembly, through the United Nations Environment Programme, shall:

(a) Invite all the heads of the governing bodies of all the multilateral environmental agreements to engage in discussions with a view to agreeing on such synchronization of efforts and defining the timeline and deliverables thereof, in particular the cycles of meetings of the governing bodies;

(b) Calculate the possible savings and other benefits that such a synchronization effort would generate to the United Nations in particular and the United Nations Member States in general;

(c) Urge the United Nations Secretary-General to enjoin the States Members of the United Nations to support the synchronization efforts;

(d) Dedicate human and financial resources for such synchronization efforts;
3. *Further decides* that the United Nations Environment Assembly, through its President, shall recommend to the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements and protocols thereto that they convene their meetings back to back with the biennial sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, whenever possible, in order to reduce costs and optimize the participation of environment ministers or their representatives;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report periodically to the United Nations Environment Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.