AFRICA GROUP

Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions for Accelerating Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

Emphasizing that effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 requires reorientation of development policies to focus on key areas that can accelerate the achievement of sustainable development;

Recalling paragraph 2 of Governing Council Decision 27/8 and resolution 1/10 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, which acknowledged that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by United Nations member states in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication;

Acknowledging that natural capital is a concept whose meaning is still under discussion and that natural assets have different intrinsic values and are subject to national jurisdiction and sovereignty;

Recognising the need to prioritize investments in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate the achievement of the sustainable development goals and Agendas 2030;

Stressing that the sustainable use of natural capital is one of the innovative environmental solutions that can be utilised in implementing the sustainable development goals;

Further noting that investing and promoting innovative environmental solutions in areas such as clean energy, ecosystem based approaches to agriculture, sustainable industrialization, among others, can reduce pollution, enhance ecosystems capacity and food security, accelerate socioeconomic transformation and create sustainable employment and economic growth;

Acknowledging that environment can play a strategic role in providing practical, affordable, innovative solutions to socioeconomic development challenges including those associated with the use of innovative scientific and technological knowledge;

Emphasizing that innovative technology development and transfer, finance mobilization, capacity building, education, research and development and technical support have the potential to enhance national capacities to develop innovative environmental solutions.
Operatives

1. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate measures to promote and invest in innovative environment policy interventions and actions to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote and facilitate institutional and legal measures and reforms, as appropriate, to strengthen environmentally innovative technologies that will ensure value addition through sustainable use of natural capital, while minimizing pollution, preventing, reducing and reversing ecosystem degradation;

3. *Calls for the* creation of innovative environmental solutions through promoting and enhancing innovative financing schemes, education, research and development, capacity building, private and public partnerships, policy harmonization, among others;

4. *Reiterates* the need to develop and strengthen partnerships between governments, private sector, non-governmental organisations, international community and other relevant parties to promote and enhance investments in innovative environmental solutions;

5. *Urges* Member States to adopt, as appropriate, environmentally innovative policy measures, as follows:

   (a) Preventing, reducing and reversing ecosystems degradation and loss in order to redirect resources for sustainable development,
   (b) sustainable harnessing of natural capital,
   (c) sustainable industrialization, agriculture, urban development, transport, tourism and trade

6. *Reaffirms* the need to support the efforts of countries in the development of innovative technology;

7. *Also reaffirms* the centrality of availability and accessibility of adequate, predictable and sustainable finance, technology transfer and capacity building to unlock practical, affordable innovative environmental solutions;
8. *Emphasizes* the need to create opportunities for partnerships to finance profitable enterprises; mutual business partnerships between financers and entrepreneurs in the catalytic areas as to enhance businesses;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations agencies, development partners and the international community to facilitate the strengthening of international cooperation in undertaking studies and developing policies and measures that contribute towards innovative environmental solutions;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director and other relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to support countries in the promotion of environmental innovative solutions;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report progress in the implementation of the present resolution at the next United Nations Environment Assembly.