

Draft UNEA Resolution: Mother Earth-Centric Actions for Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution designating 22 April as the International Day of Mother Earth,¹

Noting the UNEP Governing Council decision 27/8, which recognizes the approach of Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth that can guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems,²

Acknowledging the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on Harmony with Nature³, the Reports of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature,⁴ and the outcomes of the interactive dialogues on Harmony with Nature⁵, which reflect the international trend toward strengthening a non-anthropocentric and Earth-centered paradigm and, within the context of Earth jurisprudence, the growing number of countries recognizing the rights of Nature and the rights of Mother Earth,⁶

Recognizing the progress of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in advancing the understanding that different worldviews shape the relationship between peoples and Nature, including biocentric, ecocentric and cosmocentric values, within the context of other knowledge systems, and the Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth as one of the pathways for achieving a just and sustainable future. This progress is reflected in its conceptual framework,⁷ the Nature Futures Framework for peoples, Nature and Mother Earth⁸, as well as in the IPBES assessments, such as on "Diverse conceptualization of Nature's multiple values and benefits"⁹ and on the "Underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity",¹⁰

¹ A/RES/63/278 of 1 May 2009 of the United Nations General Assembly.

² Governing Council Decision 27/8, paragraph 2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNEA Resolution 1/10 on "Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

³ Recalling resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010, 66/204 of 22 December 2011, 67/214 of 21 December 2012, 68/216 of 20 December 2013, 69/224 of 19 December 2014, 70/208 of 22 December 2015, 71/232 of 21 December 2016, 72/223 of 20 December 2017, 73/235 of 20 December 2018, 74/224 of 19 December 2019, 75/220 of 21 December 2020, 77/169 of 14 December 2022 on Harmony with Nature, and 79/210 of 23 December 2024.

⁴ Recalling resolutions 65/314 of 19 August 2010, 66/302 of 15 August 2011, 67/317 of 17 August 2012, 68/325 of 15 August 2013, 69/322 of 18 August 2014, 70/268 of 4 August 2015, 71/266 of 2016, 72/175 of 2017, 73/221 of 2018, 74/236 of 26 July 2019, 75/266 of 28 July 2020, 77/244 of 28 July 2022, and 79/253 of 29 July 2024.

⁵ <http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/dialogues/>

⁶ In particular the cases worldwide were showcased in the Supplement to Secretary-General Report on Harmony with Nature A/75/266 of 2020, which includes over 170 inspiring range of cases and developments in Earth Jurisprudence, contributing to the non-anthropocentric or Earth-centered paradigm for the protection of planet and people.

⁷ Decision IPBES-2/4, paragraphs 6 and 15 of the Intergovernmental Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services-IPBES Conceptual Framework.

⁸ IPBES/10/INF/13. The Nature Futures Framework, a flexible tool to support the development of scenarios and models of desirable futures for people, nature and Mother Earth.

⁹ <https://www.ipbes.net/the-values-assessment>

¹⁰ <https://www.ipbes.net/transformative-change-assessment>

Reaffirming the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which acknowledges that, in the context of different value systems, Nature embodies different concepts for different people, including human well-being, living in harmony with nature, and living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth; and that for those countries that recognize them, the rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth are integral part of its successful Implementation,¹¹

Reaffirming also Article 19, paragraph f, of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which highlights the importance of enhancing the role of collective actions, including by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Mother Earth-Centric Actions and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity,¹²

1. *Recognizes* that Mother Earth-Centric Actions are grounded in an ecocentric and rights-based approach, enabling the implementation of actions towards harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and Nature, promoting the continuity of all living beings and their communities, and ensuring the non-commodification of the environmental functions of Mother Earth;¹³

2. *Reaffirms* that Mother Earth-Centric Actions include, inter alia, the following actions:

- a) Ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the conservation of biodiversity when addressing climate change;
- b) Enhancing different value systems, including for Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth, as recognized by some cultures, in the context of addressing climate change;
- c) Developing and implementing policy instruments for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity that are based on those actions and approaches;
- d) Integrating those actions and approaches into measures and frameworks that promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption;
- e) Enhancing the rights of Nature and the rights of Mother Earth for those countries that recognize them;¹⁴

3. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its work on the environmental rule of law, while taking fully into consideration the different value systems, as covered in section c of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which include, for those countries that recognize them, the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth in the context of living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth;¹⁵

¹¹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, Section C, paragraph 7(b) of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

¹² CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, paragraph 19(f) of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

¹³ As per the footnote of paragraph 19 (f) of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4).

¹⁴ As agreed in CBD/COP/DEC/16/34, paragraph 11 “Resource Mobilization” and paragraph 13 of decision 7/CMA.6 “Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 4/CMA.3”.

¹⁵ CBD/COP/DEC/16/35, paragraph 11, “Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations”.

4. *Invites also* the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate the exchange of information on initiatives and experiences with the secretariats of other conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme in support of the enhancement of the visibility and dissemination of different value systems, other knowledge systems, living in harmony with nature and, for those countries that recognize them, living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth, the rights of Nature and the rights of Mother Earth, and promoting the development of a joint interactive dialogue on those topics at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;¹⁶

5. *Further invites* the Executive Director of UNEP to further support the implementation of Mother Earth-Centric Actions for Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth, as defined in the present resolution, including:

a) Preparing a technical paper on Mother Earth-Centric Actions with a view to fostering their implementation within the work of UNEP;

b) Promoting the exchange of views and experiences among countries and peoples on Mother Earth-Centric Actions, and disseminating the outcomes of such exchanges through the UNEP website and other appropriate means;¹⁷

c) Incorporating Mother Earth-Centric Actions for Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth into the forthcoming and subsequent editions of the Global Environment Outlook report;¹⁸

6. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility and its Council to consider how to integrate Mother Earth-Centric Actions into the programming directions of the Facility and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;¹⁹

7. *Invites* Member States to integrate Mother Earth-Centric Actions for Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth, into existing national policy and legislative frameworks, and into the implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances;

8. *Calls upon* Member States and the Executive Director, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, to support the implementation of the present resolution in partnership with civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, peoples of African descent, peasants, local communities, women and youth.

¹⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/16/35, paragraph 12, “Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations”.

¹⁷ As a follow-up to paragraph 2 of UNEA 1/10 Resolution “Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

¹⁸ As a follow-up to paragraph 4 of UNEA 1/10 Resolution “Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

¹⁹ CBD/COP/DEC/16/L.31/Rev.1, paragraph 10 “Financial mechanism”.