

## **Draft Resolution**

### **Animal Welfare – Environment – Sustainable Development Nexus**

**[Ghana, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Democratic Republic of Congo]**

*The United Nations Environment Assembly,*

*Recalling* UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the international community envisaged a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected,

*Recognising*, in this regard, the report of the UN Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature (A/75/266), and that the Environment and Sustainable Development are at the core of UNEP’s mandate,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development “the Future We Want” in particular paragraph 88 (d) calling for UNEP to “Promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making”,

*Keeping in mind* that there is a nexus between animals and the environment whereby animals are an essential part of our ecosystems and that ecosystems are balanced by nature if allowed to self-regulate, and that detrimental impacts on animals or their habitats can harm nature and our natural environment in various ways,

*Aware* that the unsustainable use of domestic and wild animals is a key driver of the triple environmental crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, as well as the emergence of pandemics

*Noting* that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the inextricable link between animal welfare, environment, and sustainable development and highlighted the need for inter-agency cooperation to safeguard human welfare,

*Bearing in mind* that animal welfare, sustainable development and the environment are connected to human wellbeing and *acknowledging* that there is a strong body of science supporting animal sentience, and this is already recognized in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the African Union Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa, and aware, in this regard, of the ongoing effort by Member States to seek the adoption of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to produce a report on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development by:
  - a. analyzing the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development,
  - b. implementing the findings and recommendations of the report that are relevant to UNEP's mandate,
  - c. identifying key partners and stakeholders with the view to implementing the findings and recommendations of the report, and
  - d. developing an awareness strategy on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment, and sustainable development for the benefit of Member States,
2. *Calls* on Member States to protect animals, protecting their habitats and meeting their welfare requirements, in the context of halting biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems, mitigating climate change, preventing pollution, reducing the risk of emerging infectious zoonotic disease, and achieving sustainable development,
3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continuously engage the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a regular basis with the view to consolidating inputs and validating the progress of preparation and outcome of the report,
4. *Requests* the Executive Director to assure the promotion of animal welfare within the United Nations Environment Programme by fostering collaboration with Member States, business, experts, the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, scientific panels, major groups, and other key stakeholders and partners.
5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

