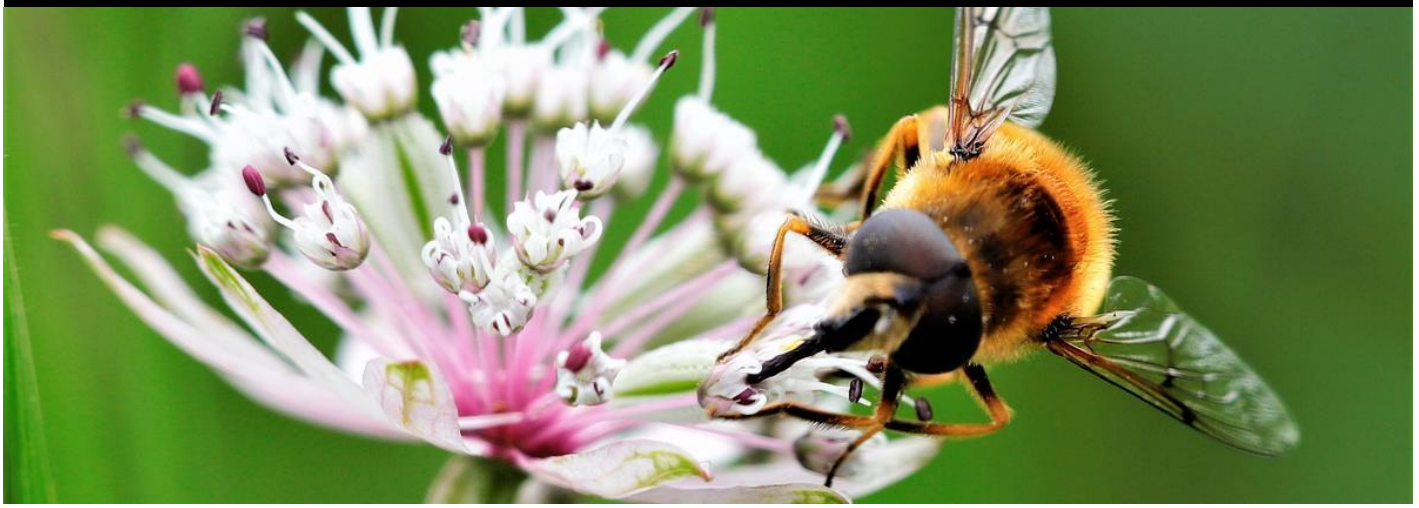
SDG SUMMIT & SDG POLITICAL DECLARATION

WWF Recommendations - March 2023



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the past year, Member States have taken bold steps to agree on increased ambition for the environmental dimension of the SDGs, including SDGs related to economic growth and sustainable consumption and production. Member States adopted a number of recent key decisions including a resolution at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on defining **nature-based solutions** (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5) and a UNGA resolution on the **right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment** (A/RES/76/300). The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (KM GBF - CBD/COP/15/L.25), agreed under the Convention on Biological Diversity, commits parties to collectively halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030, and most recently under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea an **agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction** was concluded.

This shows Member States have translated their ambition of the **Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations** (A/RES/75/1) with its commitment to protect our planet into key decisions. Now we only have 7 years to achieve the indivisible and interdependent SDGs targets, pointing to the necessity for accelerated implementation.

At the SDG Summit in 2023, WWF urges Heads of State and Government of all Member States to the UN to:

- **Adopt the SDG Political Declaration**, which includes the following elements to support urgently needed accelerated progress on the SDGs:
    - **Welcome** the adoption of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (KMGBF) and the United Nations **Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction** (BBNJ Agreement), **commit to take the necessary steps to secure adoption, ratification, acceptance or approval of the BBNJ agreement**, striving for a goal of entry into force as soon as possible and **recognise** these two agreements as the new **roadmaps for the biodiversity-related and biodiversity-dependent SDGs**,

- Recommend that the UN and Member States **maximize synergies and alignment between monitoring frameworks** for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- Commit to **stimulate the necessary investment** for SDGs by:
  - Increasing finance and fast tracking innovative rights-based and equitable finance mechanism and partnerships for SDG implementation, including with the private sector,
  - **Identifying and eliminating, phasing out or reforming subsidies and incentives that are harmful to the environment, aligning both private and public finance** with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal GBF, and increasing biodiversity related domestic and international financial resources as agreed in the KMGBF.
- Commit to re-evaluate what counts as national development **beyond traditional GDP measurement**,
- Commit to **ensure the full integration of biodiversity and environment and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, budgeting and development processes** and **scaling up the application of equitable and rights-based nature-based solutions** to address societal challenges while benefiting biodiversity,
- Commit to redouble efforts to address the **root causes** of societal and environmental challenges in an equitable manner through **transforming unsustainable production and consumption**, including through a **sustainable food systems transition, reducing overconsumption,** and shifting immediately to **deforestation free and conversion free trade and supply chains**,
- Commit to ensure the right processes are in place and functioning effectively for a true **whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach** to SDG planning and implementation at national level,
- Commit to adopt a **rights-based approach to achieving the SDG**s, including **implementing the recently adopted right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the UN General Assembly**,
- Recommit to the **urgent agreement of a legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution** and ensure a plastic free planet for all (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14).
- Commit to continue monitoring progress and **take necessary actions to ensure accountability and effective delivery of SDGs and all related MEAs**.

- **Make a strong statement for accelerated implementation of the SDGs at the SDG Summit, committing to the elements above and in particular to:**
  - Step up implementation of key environmental decisions including the Paris Agreement, the KM GBF, the BBNJ Agreement, UNEA and UNGA resolutions and others ensuring that actions are at scale, impactful. These efforts could be **showcased as high impact initiatives during the SDG Summit**[1] focused on transformation and at scale impact, which together can form an SDG acceleration package.
  - Mandate all relevant ministers to work together and ensure a **whole-of-government, whole-of-society and rights-based approach** to achieve the accelerated implementation, and commit to **apply and scale up nature-based solutions** that protect, restore and sustainably use nature.
  - **Immediately ratify the BBNJ Agreement** and **recognize the KM GBF and the BBNJ Agreement** as the **main roadmaps for the biodiversity related dimension of the SDGs**,

[1] Cf UN Deputy Secretary General letter to UN SDG Principals on High Impact Initiatives dated 7th February 2023

supported by the full and inclusive **implementation at national level of the right to a clean, healthy and safe environment**, and **report on progress by the next SDG Summit in 2027**.

- Urgently adopt needed **reforms to ensure a global financial architecture that is carbon neutral, nature-positive and equitable** and **measure progress beyond GDP** to achieve the wellbeing of all people and safeguard the planet, keeping in mind the opportunity of the Summit of the Futures (2024) and its pact for our future.

For More Information

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