**76/XXX The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

*The General Assembly*,

*PP1 Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*PP2 Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (the Stockholm Declaration), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, relevant international human rights treaties and other relevant regional human rights instruments,

*PP3 Reaffirming also* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

*PP4 Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

*PP5 Welcoming* the Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 of 8 October 2021, recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

*PP6 Recalling* all Human Rights Council resolutions on human rights and the environment, including resolutions44/7 of July 2020, 45/17 of October 2020 and 46/7 of March 2021,

*PP7* *Recognizing* that sustainable development and the protection of the environment, including ecosystems, contribute to human well-being and to the enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to an adequate standard of living, to adequate food, to safe drinking water and sanitation and to housing, and cultural rights,

*PP8 Recognizing also* that, while the human rights implications of environmental damage are felt by individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, as well as women and girls,

*PP9 Recognizing further* that environmental degradation, climate change and unsustainable development constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to effectively enjoy all human rights,

*PP10 Recognizing* that the exercise of human rights, including the rights to seek, receive and impart information, to participate safely and effectively in the conduct of government and public affairs and in environmental decision-making and to an effective remedy, is vital to the protection of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

*PP11 Reaffirming* that States have the obligation to respect, protect and promote human rights, including in all actions undertaken to address environmental challenges, and to take measures to protect the rights of all, as recognized in different international instruments and reflected in the framework principles on human rights and the environment, prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment,[[1]](#footnote-1) and that additional measures should be taken for those who are particularly vulnerable to environmental harm,

*PP12 Recalling* the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which underscore the responsibility of all business enterprises to respect human rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security of human rights defenders working in environmental matters, referred to as environmental human rights defenders,

*PP13 Affirming* the importance of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as critical to the enjoyment of all human rights,

*PP14 Recalling* all of the reports of the Special Rapporteur (formerly the Independent Expert) on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment,[[2]](#footnote-2)

*PP15 Welcoming* the decision by the Human Rights Council to request that the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment submit an annual report to the General Assembly

*PP16 Noting* that more than 155 States have recognized some form of a right to a healthy environment in, inter alia, international agreements, their national constitutions, legislation or policies,

*PP17 Noting also* “The highest aspiration: a call to action for human rights”, which the Secretary-General presented to the Human Rights Council on 24 February 2020 and in which, inter alia, he called upon the United Nations to increase support to Member States at the field level for laws and policies that regulate and promote the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and for effective individual access to justice and effective remedies for environment-related concerns,

*PP18* *Recalling* the submission of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, as requested by Member States in the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, which urges the recognition of the right to a healthy environment,

1. *Recognizes* the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

2. *Notes* that the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is inextricably related to the right to life and the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as other rights;

3. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to adopt policies, to enhance cooperation and continue to share good practices in order to scale up efforts to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all;

1. A/HRC/37/59, annex. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A/73/188, A/74/161, A/75/161, A/76/179, A/HRC/22/43, A/HRC/25/53, A/HRC/28/61, A/HRC/31/52, A/HRC/31/53, A/HRC/34/49, A/HRC/37/58, A/HRC/37/59, A/HRC/40/55, A/HRC/43/53, A/HRC/43/54, A/HRC/46/28 and A/HRC/49/53. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)