**FORUM:**  Environment Commission

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to Preserve Biodiversity and Avoid Land Degradation

**MAIN-SUBMITTED BY:**  Russia

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** Sweden, Australia, Burkina Faso, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States of America

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION,

*Recalling* the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development and calls for urgent action to prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services,

*Expressing its appreciation* to IGOs (International Governmental Organization) including IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) that have been working on preservation of biodiversity and prevention of land degradation from past few decades,

*Bearing in mind* that $44 trillion of economic value, which is more than half of the world’s GDP (Growth Domestic Product), is heavily dependent on nature,

*Deeply concerned* that current human activities, including deforestation, land-use changes, pollution, and overexploitation of natural resources, are leading to the loss of biodiversity and increased land degradation,

*Recalling* land degradation causes food insecurity due to decreased crop production, which leads to global food shortage and malnutrition,

*Recognizing* the current rate of species extinction is estimated to be 1,000 times higher than the natural rate, with around 1 million species at risk of extinction,

*Noting with deep concern* an increase of 1% of the carbon stocks in the top meter of soils is higher than the amount corresponding to the annual anthropogenic CO2 (Carbon dioxide) emissions from burning of fossil fuels,

*Realizing* that 250 million people are already affected by land degradation, with over 2 billion hectares of previously productive land are now degraded globally,

1. Requests member states to establish an UN (United Nations) umbrella organization that presides over prevention of land degradation, particularly on decline of soil quality, climate change, and water insecurity, and effectively manage the land degradation crisis with cooperation of several different related IGOs (International Governmental Organization) in such ways but not limited to:
	1. creating a special department that presides land management to efficiently and immediately restore the damages caused by land degradation in such ways but not limited to:
		1. employing workers to keep track of soil and water qualities periodically, and to report detailed statistics and notable changes to the organization,
		2. call on support from MEDCs (More Economically Developed Country) and IGOs including OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) to provide LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Country) with advanced technology to examine soil and water qualities,
	2. calling on support from MEDCs and IGOs including OECD to underpin LEDCs by building temporary stations and laboratories to support in examining soil and water qualities,
	3. regulating use of environment-unfriendly and unsustainable resources such as fossil fuels and natural gas in such ways but not limited to:
		1. creating a global standard of fossil fuel usage limit for every nation by considering population, GDP, and territory area,
		2. holding a regular meeting between nations, WTO (World Trade Organization), and OECD to seek for more sustainable, beneficial, and feasible solutions to land pollution crisis,
		3. sending supervisors from WTO to oversee and manage global imports and exports on unsustainable energy resources,
	4. broadening the range of security system and send supervisors from IUCN to oversee to reduce and manage environment-unfriendly and unsustainable actions such as:
		1. deforestation,
		2. animal hunting,
		3. littering,
	5. suggesting member states to implement a universal law that intends to restore damage from land degradation and further prevent further losses from land degradation based on damage statistics and analytics provided by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) to better cope with the issue;
2. Draws the attention of citizens to raise public awareness of the current situation of land degradation and biodiversity loss crisis, and severity of impact of land degradation to world’s economy, people’s health, and food shortage crisis in such ways but not limited to:
	1. exploiting such representative SNS (Social Network Service) that most people use, but not limited to:
		1. Instagram,
		2. Twitter,
		3. Facebook,
		4. YouTube,
		5. WeChat,
		6. Weibo,
	2. calling on support from world’s top broadcasting medias such as BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), CNN (Cable News Network), New York Times, and NBC Universal (National Broadcasting Company Universal) to do such things but not limited to:
		1. publishing articles offline and online that inform about land degradation and biodiversity loss crisis,
		2. requesting professional people who studies about land degradation and biodiversity to investigate the land degradation crisis statistics and broadcast their interviews to illustrate how serious the issue is escalating into,
	3. holding public lectures with cooperation of TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) talk, Discovery, and WWF (World Wildlife Fund) to put strong emphasis on the severity of this issue,
	4. promoting and advertising already-existing campaigns about the protecting environments and reducing pollution such as:
		1. Earth Hour, which is organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), encourages people to turn off their lights for one hour,
		2. Plastic Free July, which encourages people to reduce their use of single-use plastics throughout the month of July,
	5. raising people’s awareness of the severity of the issue by utilizing physical advertisements including:
		1. newspaper,
		2. poster,
		3. banner,
		4. billboard,
	6. calling on support from NGOs including WWF, and IUCN promote already-existing website which includes information about how people can help reduce the loss of biodiversity and land degradation;
3. Encourages governments to actively cooperate with the WWF to come up with better solution to deal with land degradation crisis, increase biodiversity, and practice environment-friendly acts in local level in such ways but not limited to:
	1. analyzing local conditions and encouraging active demonstrations from governments, NGOs, and citizens to promote best fit and feasible actions such as:
		1. active usage of public transportations,
		2. reducing air travel,
		3. electric cars,
		4. house insulation,
		5. daily light-off habit,
	2. raising funds from citizens to economically support governments and WWF to afford for better performance and reaction to degradation management system,
	3. promoting the recovery of the natural environment to weaken land degradation effect and increase biodiversity by forming habitats for animals and plants in such ways but not limited to:
		1. reforesting lands that are under developing land degradation with cooperation of WWF,
		2. increasing the diversity and population of organisms in the area by governments’ practical conservation programs;
4. Further Requests individuals and companies to increase the use of renewable energy resources such as solar energy, wind energy, and hydro energy but decrease the use of unsustainable energy resources such as natural gas to prevent land, water and atmosphere pollution in such ways but not limited to:
	1. providing individuals with financial benefit from government when they install renewable energy generators to their houses as a promotion in such ways but not limited to:
		1. providing subsidy for renewable energy generator installation process,
		2. charging no interest in loans for those who use loan to install renewable energy generator,
		3. paying some portion of renewable energy generator price,
	2. encouraging companies to use less oil by reducing their tax according to their progress on the reduction of consumption of unsustainable energy resources;
5. Recommends the member nations to start campaigns accompanied by the voluntary participation of citizens to assist the organizations involved in stopping the loss of biodiversity and land degradation such as the WWF financially and also support human resources in such ways but not limited to:
	1. proposing national and local communities to establish fundraising systems in such ways but not limited to:
		1. suggesting opening fundraising events in the national and local community including neighborhoods, schools, and hospitals,
		2. setting up donor boxes which are boxes in public for people to anonymously insert money with government supervision,
	2. getting professional volunteers for on-site staff from universities or armies to provide more human resources to such as following organizations but not limited to:
		1. WWF which manages and protects animals and biodiversity,
		2. IUCN, which conserves the overall nature environment and prevents natural factors such as soil erosion,
		3. WRI (World Resource Institute), which conduct research and provide information and guidance on a range of environmental issues, including climate change, energy, and forests,
6. Suggests government to enact and implement environment-related laws to mitigate pollution to preserve biodiversity and stop land degradation in such ways but not limited to:
	1. regulating industry to reduce industrial pollution which can cause land degradation and damage the ecosystem in such ways but not limited to:
		1. creating law which limits and punishes companies and industries for over-usage of natural resources, emission of greenhouse gas and industrial waste,
		2. making a policy that supports companies that are showing eco-friendly actions such as reducing industrial waste,
	2. legally designating damaged areas/regions for the natural reserve to isolate them from human activities until the land and ecosystem recover/regenerates in such methods but not limited to:
		1. enforcing laws to stabilize environmental conditions of national parks and native environment,
		2. investigating land and biodiversity conditions with cooperation of environment-related NGO including WWF to accurately categorize environmentally damaged areas to proceed with immediate reaction to restore damages;
7. Further Recommends each nation’s department of agriculture to effectively manage with crop yields with support of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations) in such ways but not limited to:
	1. promoting coordinated land-use planning to agricultural industries that include management of water, soil, and livestock to bring more effective use of land and its natural resources,
	2. encouraging use of vegetation cover and barriers to avoid crops being affected by water and soil erosion in such ways but not limited to:
		1. designing and mass-producing vegetation cover with the cooperation of manufacturing industry,
		2. putting vegetation cover on sale with affordable price for agricultural industries to purchase without too big economic burden,
	3. replacing current farming methods to organic and pesticide-free farming of agricultural industries,
	4. recommending agricultural industries to use rotational grazing along with farming to increase soil biomass and fertilize soil by isolating carbon from the atmosphere,
	5. calling on support from breeding scientists to actively engage in producing crops that are not easily affected by dust storms and insects including locusts with financial support of government.