



Warsaw, 21 February 2025

To: Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme

Email: unep-civilsociety@un.org

Subject: Inputs for the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-7 – Ensuring a Just and Sustainable Food System

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Green REV Institute, Polish think tank that coordinates the biggest CSOs coalition for fair food transition, Plant based School Program operator I would like to present the input for the Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-7.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide inputs for the upcoming Ministerial Declaration of UNEA-7 and commend the efforts toward an inclusive, transparent, and participatory consultation process.

We urge UNEA-7 to incorporate into the Ministerial Declaration a strong commitment to establishing a just and sustainable global food system, which recognizes the fundamental right to accessible food that does not compromise biodiversity and natural ecosystems. This requires a transition toward food production and consumption models that ensure food security while safeguarding environmental integrity.



Addressing the Biodiversity Crisis. The Role of the Food System

The world is facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), over one million species are at risk of extinction, with habitat destruction and unsustainable agricultural practices being primary drivers. The Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 (GBO-5) warns that current food systems contribute significantly to deforestation, soil degradation, and freshwater depletion, further exacerbating climate change and ecosystem collapse.

One of the key contributors to biodiversity loss is industrial animal agriculture. The animal production agriculture sector alone is responsible for nearly 80% of global agricultural land use, while providing only 18% of global calorie supply. It is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change, which in turn accelerates biodiversity loss and jeopardizes food security.

Urgent Action for a Sustainable and Secure Food Future

To address these pressing challenges, we call upon UNEA-7 to endorse policies and frameworks that:

- 1. Promote a Just and Sustainable Food System** – Support a fair and equitable transition toward plant-based, biodiversity-friendly food production systems that ensure nutritious and accessible food for all, without compromising ecosystems.
- 2. Adopt Green Industrialization and Short Supply Chains**– Encourage investment in local, minimally processed food production and distribution networks that reduce environmental footprints, strengthen food sovereignty, and enhance resilience to supply chain disruptions.
- 3. Regulate Destructive Agricultural Practices** – Implement stringent policies to limit deforestation, habitat destruction, and pollution linked to animal farming, prioritizing regenerative agriculture and ecosystem restoration.



4. **Ensure Food Safety and Consumer Health** – Develop clear guidelines to promote sustainable diets that benefit both public health and planetary well-being, integrating education campaigns and policy incentives for sustainable food choices.

5. **Strengthen International Cooperation on Food Security** – Facilitate global collaboration on sustainable agriculture, ensuring that all nations, particularly those in vulnerable regions, have the resources and support to implement resilient food systems.

UNEA-7 presents a critical opportunity to take decisive action in reforming our global food systems in ways that benefit people, biodiversity, and climate stability. We urge the Secretariat and Member States to incorporate these priorities into the Ministerial Declaration, setting a path toward a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all.

We appreciate your consideration of these urgent matters and remain committed to supporting UNEA-7's mission.

Sincerely,

Anna Spurek

COO, Green REV Institute