

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR
following the XI Nevsky International Ecological Congress

St. Petersburg

22–23 May 2025

The participants of the XI Nevsky International Ecological Congress, titled ‘Planet Earth: Living in Harmony with Nature’, who convened to address crucial issues related to environmental protection and environmental and food security, have **acknowledged** that climate change, depletion of natural resources, loss or reduction of biodiversity, and environmental pollution pose risks to the sustainable development of humanity, and that these global environmental challenges demand collective action;

Reaffirmed the importance of mobilizing collective efforts across the global community to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, develop and implement effective measures for adapting to environmental changes, conserve biodiversity, recycle production and consumption waste as secondary resources and raw materials, and reduce anthropogenic pressure on ecosystems;

Supported the fostering of interstate cooperation on an equal footing in the sustainable and efficient use of natural resources;

Emphasized the importance of sustainable development as an integrated concept encompassing its interrelated environmental, economic, and social dimensions, while highlighting the detrimental effects of unilateral, illegitimate restrictions imposed under environmental or climate pretexts on economic cooperation between countries;

Paid special attention to the ecological challenges faced by megacities, recognizing that large urban centres are major sources of air, water and soil pollution, significant consumers of energy resources, and generators of substantial waste;

Underscored the importance of youth involvement in environmental matters and the need for active participation by young people in the development and implementation of policies aimed at achieving long-term Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognized, drawing upon previously established joint documents that promote a systematic approach to global environmental and climate policy, the leading role of legislative bodies in enhancing national environmental legislation and incorporating effective international legal standards;

Commended the work of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States in developing model laws aimed at harmonizing the environmental legislation of its member nations, acknowledging its vital contribution to the coordinated implementation of environmental policies within the Commonwealth states; and

In this regard, **urged** the state authorities of the concerned states and international organizations to:

1. Advocate for unhindered cooperation between states and organizations to facilitate the sharing of experience and technologies in environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources.
2. Develop international cooperation to establish an environmental monitoring framework aimed at assessing food security risks, monitoring natural and anthropogenic hazards, and adapting to environmental changes to enable timely responses to emerging crises and threats.
3. Support initiatives to enhance the quality of urban environment through the implementation of innovative solutions that reduce pollution and improve residents' living conditions, while promoting the sharing of best practices in eco-friendly urban transport, landscaping, and digital air quality monitoring.
4. Promote international youth cooperation in environmental protection by encouraging the participation of young leaders and experts in decision-making processes and relevant events.
5. Integrate environmental education into school and university curricula as a foundation for sustainable development.
6. Coordinate efforts to protect rare and endangered animal and plant species and to restore ecosystems.
7. Implement measures to decrease environmental pollution from plastic waste, alongside projects supporting the transition to a circular economy that maximizes the reutilization of valuable fractions of production and consumption waste.
8. Incorporate environmental criteria (requirements) into national strategies for economic growth and industrial modernization.
9. Undertake coordinated actions to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, ensuring the fulfilment of commitments by all participating countries.

In the field of cooperation between the participating countries and the BRICS partner countries:

1. Continue the course toward strengthening environmental dialogue, placing particular emphasis on advancing initiatives under the BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology (BEST) Platform and the BRICS Clean Rivers Programme.
2. Step up joint efforts in the areas identified in the Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation, signed by the BRICS countries on 26 July 2018, including addressing the preservation and protection of the most vulnerable species.
3. Accelerate the development of the BRICS Geological Platform as an initial step toward practical cooperation in geology and sustainable mineral resource management, alongside advancing the BRICS Climate Research Platform.

4. Acknowledging the importance of discussing forestry issues, continue collaboration with partners related to the Declaration of the Environment Ministers and Heads of Forest Departments of the BRICS countries.

5. Promote enhanced cooperation and coordination on climate-related matters and advocate sustainable economic growth through the adoption of best available and environmentally sound technologies.

6. Oppose unilateral restrictive measures that impede sustainable economic development, especially those imposed under the pretext of addressing climate change and environmental protection.

7. Foster the involvement of youth from BRICS countries in the environmental dialogue within the framework of the association.

8. Increase the effectiveness of coordinated actions by the BRICS countries on international environmental platforms.

In the field of conservation of the Caspian Sea ecosystem:

1. Noting the exclusive jurisdiction of the Caspian littoral states in addressing and resolving all matters related to the Caspian Sea, develop environmental cooperation based on the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) dated 4 November 2003, the Agreement on Security Cooperation in the Caspian Sea dated 18 November 2010, the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Aquatic Biological Resources of the Caspian Sea dated 29 September 2014, and other relevant instruments.

2. Promote the strengthening of regional cooperation while continuing to emphasize the importance of joint scientific and research collaboration among the Caspian littoral states in studying climatic factors since the 19th century and the subsequent shallowing of the Caspian Sea, aiming to systematize all available data and develop reliable medium- and long-term forecasts of changes in Caspian Sea levels.

3. Make efforts to preserve the biological diversity of the Caspian Sea, with particular focus on sturgeon species and the Caspian seal.

4. Contribute to the formulation of a concept for the establishment and activities of a five-party expert group tasked with studying the causes of the Caspian Sea shallowing, considering possible comprehensive mitigation measures, and proposing adaptation strategies.

In the field of cooperation between the states parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972:

1. Promote constructive cross-border cooperation in the context of preserving the world cultural and natural heritage.

2. Minimize unnecessary human-caused impacts detrimental to the condition of World Heritage sites.

3. Propose to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to develop a mechanism for interaction among the participating states whose territories include transboundary World Heritage sites, particularly for preparing joint reports or, if necessary, conducting joint research in cases where one of the participating states unilaterally refuses to cooperate.

In the field of cooperation between the Central Asian countries:

1. Promote the expansion of international cooperation between Russia, Mongolia, and the Central Asian countries in the conservation, protection, and integrated management of water resources, giving special attention to cross-border cooperation and seeking joint solutions to address water scarcity in the Central Asian region.

2. Promote the exchange of experience between Russia, Mongolia, and the Central Asian countries in developing monitoring systems, implementing modern water-saving technologies, and advancing joint projects in water resources management and the hydropower sector.

3. Take steps to enhance resilience to the consequences of climate change, including freshwater resource depletion, uneven geographical and seasonal distribution of freshwater resources, and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme hydrological events.

In the field of food security in the context of climate change:

1. Support the preservation of the key role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Food and Agriculture Organization as the primary United Nations platforms for fostering multilateral cooperation on food security and climate change.

2. Assist in organizing cooperation on multilateral platforms, including within the Eurasian space, to coordinate efforts aimed at achieving global food security and ensuring sustainable agricultural growth in the context of climate change.

In the field of implementation of low-emission, technologically neutral solutions for advancing the sustainable development of the green economy:

1. Support initiatives focused on sharing experience in implementing sustainable (including green) development projects, government regulation, and measures to promote environmental protection activities.

2. Intensify dialogue on harmonizing green regulations, including national green taxonomies, national systems for electricity origin certification, and related frameworks.

3. Support the creation and implementation of new tools to advance green development, including tax incentives, and recommend that the business community consider electricity origin certificates, including nuclear certificates, as instruments to reduce the carbon footprint of their products.

In the field of circular economy development:

1. Promote the convergence of approaches to develop circular economy mechanisms among the CIS member nations and within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union.

2. Deepen international cooperation to share experience among countries regarding personnel training in municipal solid waste management and the circular economy.

3. Continue efforts to deepen cooperation in sharing technologies for the treatment and disposal of municipal solid waste.

In the field of digitalization and application of high technologies

1. Ensure the widespread implementation and adoption of information and communication technologies (ICT) in environmental protection and management, including artificial intelligence, digital twins, the Internet of Things, and Big Data analysis utilizing Earth remote sensing data, camera traps, and unmanned aerial vehicles.

2. Deepen international cooperation to share experience in the implementation of digital technologies in sustainable environmental management, with an emphasis on developing and operationalizing promising joint projects.

3. Develop voluntary principles in ecology and environmental management aimed at preventing harm to ecosystems and natural capital when using ICT, protecting the ‘digital sovereignty’ of States, and ensuring ICT manufacturers’ compliance with national laws in the countries where their products are used.

4. Establish an international expert platform on the ethical and sustainable use of ICT in the environmental sector to institutionalize best practices, incorporate natural and technological considerations, and develop guidelines for the digital transformation of environmental management in the interests of participating states.

5. Replicate the use of computer vision technologies in traceability processes covering the generation, treatment, and disposal of municipal solid waste to reduce landfills and improve public satisfaction with service quality.

6. Introduce innovative technologies for:
reducing the carbon footprint of subsoil resource use;

cleaning industrial and domestic wastewater using modern membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, and biotreatment technologies, and promote rainwater collection systems, seawater desalination, and reuse of purified industrial water;

detecting illegal logging and assessing forest conditions;

breeding fast-growing tree species and increasing tree resistance to diseases and climate change;

genetically modifying seedlings to accelerate forest restoration after natural disasters and fires;

wastewater treatment, waste disposal, and mitigation of soil pollution from petroleum products;

air pollution control, as well as automatic emission control systems in large enterprises.

7. Develop a regulatory framework for IT systems and artificial intelligence, aligned with international law norms.

In the field of sustainable subsoil resource use:

1. Promote the economic utilization of waste generated from subsoil resource use through economic and regulatory mechanisms.

2. Support scientific research in collaboration with partner countries in the field of green technologies for resource extraction and processing.

3. Develop and implement targeted training programmes for environmental professionals in subsoil resource use.

4. Establish international student exchange programmes aimed at training specialists and improving the skills of current professionals.

5. Promote successful practices, management strategies, and technological solutions that uphold a balance between subsoil resource use and environmental conservation, facilitating their replication by partner countries.

In the field of biological diversity conservation:

1. Contribute to the development, promotion, and implementation of:
global and national goals and objectives under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

innovative technologies and measures for the conservation of biological diversity;

international projects focused on biological diversity conservation;

measures to preserve rare and endangered wildlife, including within transboundary specially protected natural areas.

2. In coordination with commercial and non-profit organizations, remove administrative barriers and enable such organizations to actively participate in supporting biological diversity conservation projects.

3. Establish national and international centres dedicated to the restoration and reintroduction of rare and endangered wildlife species.

In the field of ecotourism:

1. Strive to harmonize national legislation by introducing the term ‘ecotourism’ with a clear definition that reflects its application to territories of special environmental and recreational significance.

2. Continue to implement state support measures for investment projects focused on developing ecotourism, in alignment with initiatives promoting socio-economic development and the well-being of local communities.

3. Continuously monitor and analyse the anthropogenic impact of tourism on the natural environment, including health-improving and resort areas, to prevent adverse environmental effects.

4. Encourage the participation of the tourism industry and tourists in nature conservation activities.

5. Cooperate in the promotion and development of ecotourism, including through international projects.

6. Integrate digital technologies into the management, promotion, and development of ecotourism.

7. Support the creation of infrastructure catering to low-mobility populations, children’s recreation, and family tourism within natural environments.

In the field of promoting a favourable environment in megacities:

1. Promote cooperation between cities in developing urban green and water infrastructure and establish principles for systematic urban landscaping planning, affording it equal priority alongside other essential urban systems.

2. Launch the development of an open-access platform – a publicly available repository – that features best Russian and international practices in the implementation of green technologies in megacities to maintain ecological balance.

3. Establish a new technological foundation for industrial ecology dedicated to environmental preservation and strive for the seamless integration of modern technologies within the natural resource cycle.

4. Promote the development of eco-friendly transportation, including by:

expanding the fleet of buses powered by electricity, biofuels, and other low-carbon fuels;

prioritizing the development of public and shared transport systems.

5. Recognize the direct impact of ecology on the health, quality of life, and life expectancy of urban residents, incorporate environmental factors into urban planning and investment decisions, and conduct scientific research to optimize management of environmental parameters in urban development.

6. Develop breeding technologies that enhance the resistance of local plant species to human and environmental stressors and increase their biological and functional diversity.

7. Develop a system of bioindicators (living organisms) to monitor and evaluate the condition and dynamics of urban ecosystems.

In the field of civil society engagement with the environmental agenda:

1. Enhance the effectiveness and transparency of mechanisms enabling public participation in and oversight of the environmental agenda of states and raise awareness of these mechanisms among the general public.

2. Harmonize and advance environmental education, awareness-raising, and volunteerism across the EAEU countries based on shared principles to launch and successfully implement international cross-border environmental projects, sustainable development initiatives, and comprehensive environmental safety measures.

3. Strengthen feedback channels between society and the state within environmental policy and develop new interaction formats between society and the state, including the use of modern technologies such as AI and Big Data.

4. Promote best practices in environmental awareness-raising through media outlets and educational programmes and develop mechanisms and tools to advance the environmental agenda, including increasing social advertising dedicated to environmental awareness.

5. Support women's participation and international collaboration in addressing global environmental challenges, including climate change mitigation and natural resource conservation.

6. Support the *Green Future: Ecological Female Projects Award* by the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum to popularize women's environmental initiatives, encourage female social engagement, and promote and expand best environmental projects within the BRICS countries. Encourage collaboration on joint projects with award winners and finalists and facilitate their participation in the Nevsky International Environmental Congress.

7. Back the efforts of the *Green Future Award* participants and organizers in sharing and implementing best practices in environmental protection and natural resource

management across the BRICS countries, with the aim of strengthening international cooperation networks.

8. Acknowledge the issues raised during the session ‘Women’s Role in Achieving Ecological Well-Being’ and support the ongoing international dialogue on conscious consumption, environmental awareness, and responsible stewardship of natural resources.

9. Support initiatives that engage young people in discussing and addressing environmental challenges, as well as initiatives focused on creating and sharing best practices for environmental education and awareness-raising.

10. Facilitate the participation of young professionals, students, and activists in international cooperation and knowledge exchange through interstate projects and educational programmes.

11. Strengthen the activities of the Ecosystem International Ecological Club as an integrated platform for organizing international collaboration and coordinating joint actions among non-governmental environmental organizations to promote responsible environmental attitudes and support global environmental initiatives led by younger generations across countries.

12. Continue promoting youth engagement with the international environmental agenda, including efforts related to the commitments of the Russian Federation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change dated 9 May 1992 and the Paris Agreement dated 12 December 2015.

13. Enhance the prestige of the profession of ecologist and conduct regular scientific research on environmental issues.

14. Encourage businesses to establish a mentoring system to support the identification and development of innovative environmental projects and startups.

15. Promote the dissemination of multifunctional environmental centre models in major Russian cities, positioning them as hubs of eco-activism and catalysts for local economic development.

16. Develop an effective system to motivate and recognize volunteers, as well as to coordinate volunteer activities aimed at protecting biodiversity in ecologically valuable and emergency-affected areas.

17. Implement a system for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of volunteer projects focused on conserving unique ecosystems in protected and environmentally vulnerable areas.