



UNEP - UNEA-3
Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-3)
(Nairobi, 29 November-1 December 2017)

Opening Statement on behalf of the EU and its MS

Mr. Chair,
Excellences,
Distinguished colleagues,

- I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement."
- We would like to express our appreciation to the Executive Director Mr. Erik Solheim, to the Secretariat of the UN Environment Programme, the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the UNEA Bureau for their hard work in preparing this meeting.
- We also truly appreciate the process led by Minister Gutiérrez, the President of UNEA, involving transparent and inclusive consultations on a final draft of the ministerial declaration, which we want our ministers to adopt next week.
- The EU and its Member States are looking forward to productive discussions amongst all member states at this OECPR meeting. We trust that our common aim is to reach good and meaningful results by Friday on the ministerial outcome document, draft resolutions and decisions and on all other relevant documents to be presented to the UNEA3 for adoption.

- During the following three days of negotiations, we should keep in mind that our goal is to prepare a UNEA which sends a clear and strong signal to the broader public that Member States are committed to proactively address pollution in all its dimensions.

Mr. Chair,

- The 3rd Session of the Assembly will convene under the overarching theme "Towards a Pollution Free Planet" with the aim of putting forward ambitious, effective and collaborative action towards preventing and reducing pollution. It is our responsibility to make the best and most constructive use of the meeting this week in order to provide the Assembly with meaningful and actionable input for its consideration that meets this forward-looking theme. We welcome the Executive Director's background report which helped formulate our proposals for resolutions and will inspire the leadership discussions during the UNEA.
- We are faced with many persistent and even growing pollution challenges, and this trend has to be turned. We recognize the utmost importance of concerted and ambitious action and wide international mobilization to tackle pollution, considering that pollution affects water and food security, economic development, social justice and human health.
- We explicitly emphasize the strong inter-linkages between environment and health and the importance to address them jointly, and in doing so implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
- In this context we also welcome the report of the Lancet Commission on pollution and health, which provides valuable information about the burden that pollution places on health and economic development. We have submitted a proposal for a resolution on this matter, which we hope will be supported by all given its importance for people and the environment worldwide.
- A pollution-free planet cannot be achieved without active participation of all relevant stakeholders. Also in the context of

pollution, we see that the SDGs provide an overarching global framework agreed by all UN Member States and thus an opportunity for all actors to aim at and take action collaboratively towards the common targets. We need all actors - governments, academia, science, industry and civil society alike, to boost the efforts necessary for its implementation.

- Our priority for this week would be to reach a common understanding and agree on a set of resolutions and encourage actions needed to address pollution by all relevant stakeholders. With the necessary constructive spirit and political will we are confident that a final agreement can be achieved and paved the way for a successful UNEA-3 next week.

Mr. Chair,

- The EU and its Member States will collaborate in a positive spirit and build on the progress made so far to foster meaningful consensus.

Thank you.
