

**OPEN-ENDED COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
FOURTH UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY  
REMARKS BY THE ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**MARCH 04, 2019 | TIME: 10:00 AM | VENUE: Committee Room No. 1**

*Distinguished Excellencies, stakeholders, and colleagues*

Welcome to the Meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

*Kari bu sana Nairobi.*

On behalf of the UN Environment Programme, I express our gratitude for the considerable work that you will be undertaking in Nairobi this week.

Your leadership is also central for the success of the Fourth UN Environment Assembly and beyond – because it is with you, your leadership that the real business of driving environmental change will happen.

I am pleased to share with you that we are well advanced in finalizing the programme of work for 2020-21. We have

benefited enormously from the guidance of Member States on ensuring our draft accurately reflects lessons learnt, proposed and realistic budget envelopes and is strongly grounded in the 2030 Agenda and Assembly outcomes.

Over the next five days, you, Member States will finalize a series of resolutions on environmental challenges. The diversity of these resolutions is an indication of your immense commitment to addressing the environmental challenges that we face.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I firmly believe that we are at the final stages of this process and have no doubt that you will guide us in crafting solutions with determination, that will have a transformative impact on people and planet. In a few hours, I will be sharing via email some ideas and opportunities I see ahead and I welcome your feedback.

Our thanks to the hard work of Member States. Please know we, the Secretariat stands with you to walk every step of this journey, in laying the ground for a successful and meaningful UN Environment Assembly and beyond.

Please allow me to commend the Presidency of the Fourth UN Environment Assembly, Minister Siim Kissler and his outstanding team for the draft Ministerial Declaration that which will be reviewed this week. Allow me to also thank Ambassador Fernando Coimbra of Brazil for guiding us through the process this week and I wish to acknowledge the contribution of co-chair Francisca Ashiety-Oduntun and all the co-facilitators of the resolutions.

Noted physicist Stephen Hawking once said and I quote, “When we see the Earth from space, we see ourselves as a

whole. We see the unity, not the divisions. We are one planet, one human race.”

All of you in this room represent the very best of multilateralism.

And the world is watching us lead the environmental agenda from Nairobi.

I look forward to the deliberations this week, and wish you all the best.

*Asanteni sana*