

Statement by Malawi during the Sixth Annual Sub-Committee Meeting held from 7th to 11th October 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya

On Agenda item no 3; programme performance review 2018-2019 including relevant UN Environment Assembly resolutions.

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies and colleagues,
Executive Director and your Team,

I thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Chairperson, to present my Delegation's reaction to the presentation by the Secretariat on the programme performance review 2018-2019 including relevant UN Environment Assembly resolutions.

Malawi would from the outset like to align itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group by the Ambassador of Eritrea, Dean of the Africa Group at the start of the Annual Sub-Committee meeting earlier this morning.

Let me also take this opportunity to join others in congratulating Ambassador Fernando Coimbra of the Federative Republic of Brazil for assuming his position as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP in Nairobi. Let me further use this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, in her observably very active early days in office. She hit

the ground running. My delegation, continue to wish her all the best in all endeavours and tasks.

Malawi would like to commend the Executive Director, senior management and other staff of UNEP Secretariat for the report and status of implementation of the mandate of the organisation. It is gratifying to note the efforts through various projects that are being undertaken to ensure that the global environmental agenda is promoted. Malawi has noted with keen interest the assertion and claim by the Secretariat that almost all the Sub-programmes have met and in some instances exceeded their indicator targets.

Perhaps there could never be any better news from any organisation's perspective. However Malawi is keen to get insights from third party and independent assessment to ascertain, if not validate the self-assessment undertaken by the UNEP Secretariat.

Mr. Chairperson,

Malawi further notes that UNEP's budget and program delivery was heavily dependent on earmarked funding rather than on non-earmarked or UN Environment Fund. While earmarked funds help to scale up and replicate results of core work, such a situation nevertheless contributes to a skewed program delivery. It further runs the risk of promotion of agenda which is not necessarily globally premised. In this vein Malawi joins others, in calling for all Member States to increase and remain consistent with their contributions to the Environment Fund.

My Delegation, Mr. Chair, in the context of the sub-programme on environmental governance, is also keen to receive a report from the Secretariat regarding its involvement, engagement and uptake of the outcomes of the forthcoming Seventeenth African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to be held in Durban, South Africa in November 2019.

On the private sector engagement policy, Malawi has taken note of the work of the Secretariat. In as much as there's an Executive Summary at the start of the document, my Delegation, is keen to be presented with a shorter, summarized and key point format. Such a presentation would capture key and salient points to facilitate understanding, contribution to participation in and oversight by Member states. Detailed documents with excellent graphic illustrations make for compelling reading and demand astute attention. That is commendable. However, there is potential that they may obscure the good intentions, and muddy up the story!

With these remarks I thank you all for your attention.