

**Statement by the African Diplomatic Corps During
The 6th Annual Meeting of the UNEP Subcommittee
Monday 7th October 2019**

Chairperson,

Executive Director,

Deputy Executive Director,

Ambassadors, and High Commissioners,

At the outset, the African Group wishes to align itself with the Statement delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group starts by congratulating H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, for assuming his position as the Chair of the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Sixth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of Permanent Representatives takes place this year at a very crucial juncture when we are preparing to celebrate the 50th commemoration of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Program. The Group looks forward to working closely with all member states and geographic groups on this noteworthy endeavor.

On the programme performance review, the group welcomes the inclusion of resolutions into the reporting and requests the secretariat to further consolidate the practice. However, the group notes with concern the continuous exclusion of regional dimensions of program performance review, despite the Group's request during the fifth annual subcommittee meeting. Thus, the Group requests the secretariat to develop a reporting format that allows Member States to monitor the impact of the activities of UNEP at the regional and country level. Additionally, while the report was fairly comprehensive and detailed, we feel that any performance of UNEP's efforts should take into account the wider context of multilateral environmental efforts. As such, Mentioning how the efforts undertaken by UNEP under the various subprogrammes fit in with, complement and achieve synergies with the various MEAs would be a highly valuable exercise.

On Strategy for Private Sector Engagement, the Group welcomes the revised UN Environment Programme Strategy for Private Sector Engagement. By and large, the revised Strategy addresses the concerns expressed by the Group and emphasizes the need for geographic balance and to engage not only with medium, large – enterprises and multinationals but also small/micro – enterprises and Cooperatives.

The Group underlines that the rationale behind the engagement should not only be a mobilization of financial resources but should include tapping for wide dissemination of best practices and innovative solutions to Environmental challenges developed by small

and medium-size enterprises including utilizing greener, sustainable and more efficient technologies and practices.

On Mid-Term Strategy, the Group takes note of the document. The Group requests the Executive Director to review the document based on the recommendations of Rio+20 as reference guidelines, as well as to identify the actions needed to protect the environment. In addition, the African Group wishes to see African priority areas as contained in successive resolutions such as eradicating extreme poverty, tackle climate change as a global challenge, achieve sustainable development for all, and leave no one behind.

On UNEP+50, the Group recalls Para 8 of UNEA decision 4/2 requests the ED to prepare, in consultation with member states, the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the UN Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm in June 1972, making use of contributions from relevant stakeholders. In this regard, the Group takes note of the proposals made by the Secretariat on the commemoration of the creation of UNEP in 1972/9. We also note that the commemoration provides an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in protecting the global environment and human wellbeing, including under the auspices of UNEP.

On Implementation of decision UNEP/EA.4/2, the Group takes note of the roadmap prepared. The Group reiterates its position in its strongest term that the CPR-based review shall remain participatory, led by CPR, inclusive, and fully transparent and remain within the mandate as outlined in the resolution. This entails that the process should remain focused on the organizational matters of the review related to the work of the UNEA, the CPR and of their respective

bureaus, with the aim of streamlining and facilitating their work as well as their efficiency and effectiveness. The Group recalls the tight balance achieved by packaging the different interests into the resolution and **calls for** a balanced implementation of the resolution.

On Implementation of resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.22, the Group welcomes the detailed roadmap towards the realization of the web-based monitoring and follow-up system. The Group underlines the importance of linking the implementation of resolutions with the Sub-Programs of the organization to boost coherence of reporting and ease of follow-up.

I thank you!