

# **COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS OF THE 150<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

Thank you Chair,

My name is Griffins Ochieng; from Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD,) a public interest NGO based here in Nairobi, and a participating organization of IPEN.

**Thanks to the secretariat for the background documents  
Our comments are as follows:**

## **Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director**

- Page 3: The report states that, “we have seen increased cooperation on identifying synergies, for example between the chemicals and waste cluster and the biodiversity cluster and their respective post-2020 frameworks.” Are there any examples, and kind/areas of the cooperation?
- UNEP has a dedicated effort to reduce and eliminate plastic pollution, but we see attempts by the plastics industry of using the pandemic to effectively roll back regulations prohibiting single-use plastic. What guidance is UNEP giving in this regard? This is also relevant to the Secretary General’s report which noted that “Governments should not respond to the COVID-19 crisis by making policy and investment decisions that exacerbate existing crises such as air pollution and the climate emergency.”

## **Agenda item 5 & 6: Background document on strengthening actions for nature to achieve the SDGs**

We have comments and suggestions on the following areas:

- Proposed action area 1: Inclusion of “sustainable” in this title: Nature for sustainable jobs and economic prosperity. This would be compatible with the actions proposed.

- Proposed action area 2: Our suggestion is to add the plastic pollution in the framing to “plastic pollution.” To possibly read “Developing a global collective structural response to address the threat of marine litter and plastic pollution”
- Proposed action area 4: Our suggestion is, could the first action item include “agroecology” somewhere. For example, adding “by implementing agroecology” after “biodiversity loss.” To read “as a significant driver of biodiversity loss by implementing agroecology”

It would be good to strongly support sound chemicals management as an item “at the forefront of COVID-19 recovery plans.”

Finally, mobilizing the private sector toward targeted investments should really be about addressing externalization. Examples of actions are useful, but the overall frame is the need for the private sector to internalize its costs.

Thank you!