

DRAFT INPUTS/COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA ITEM 3: DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW UNEP MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY 2022- 25

**Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 4 June 2020**

Thank you Chair,

My name is Griffins Ochieng, Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD), I am speaking on behalf of a working group on just transition and engagement in UNEA preparatory process which brings together various organizations based in Nairobi convened by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Kenya Office including Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU), Transparency International-Kenya (TI-K) and Youth for SDGs Kenya.

So before I start, I would like to explain to you how our working group defines just transition. “Just transition aims at smoothing the shift towards a more sustainable society and providing hope for the capacity of a “green economy” to sustain decent jobs and livelihoods for all.”

We thank the secretariat for the background document and have the following additional comments mainly on the “Take home messages”:

a. Take home message 2

We welcome and appreciate the ambition within this message and note its critical relevance to our world presently. COVID-19 has posed a great health, economic and development challenge with implications for the present and future times. The pandemic also provides a tipping point for the global development, an opportunity to transition towards environmental sustainability and sustainable development. Attaining environment, climate and sustainable development co-benefits should be central to a post COVID -19 recovery. As such,

- A narrative that reinstates the place of nature in development and advances sector and economy-wide transition from the conventional development model to a more sustainable development is urgently needed. The narrative should inform a green recovery pathway with benefits for people and the planet.

We believe that a just transition course to sustainability provides the opportunity to deliver health-environment-climate and development co-benefits. Post COVID-19 period requires that UNEP provides leadership to countries on how to transform economic development systems to support more resilient economies that:

1. Deliver on environmental stability and sustainable development targets
2. Are prepared for present and future health and climate crisis.
3. Deliver green and decent jobs

Just transition is therefore a means that MTS should integrate. It will enable UNEP influence and reorganize power and actions within the economic spheres for environmental transformation and green economy during the post COVID-19 recovery.

b. Taken home message 5

We welcome the actions within this message. To strengthen the need to communicate effectively, we underscore that:

- UNEP needs to maintain continuous, constant and updated information flow with actors. Additionally, communicating far beyond the environment sector is important if we are to cause a shift in how other sectors appreciate and act on environmental conservation. Therefore, UNEP should within its MTS focus on unpacking how environmental concerns, inputs and evidence inform what is happening within the non-environment sectors. Environmental conscious development and economy-wide transformation can only happen if an environmental thinking and solutions find their way into decision-making processes and programmes.

c. Take home message 9

We welcome the ambition to advance partnerships that deliver impact with the business community. We note that this is the way to go in advancing desired environmental change as all voices matter and we need to not leave anyone behind. We however emphasize the need to structure these partnerships to ensure that shared interest and benefit for the environment and people is realized within a transparent and accountable mechanism. Therefore, we recommend inclusion of key partnership aspects such as partnership agreements (MOUs, Terms of

Engagement) and monitoring systems all with clear transparency and accountability terms.

Finally, we are convinced that these will strengthen relationships between actors and UNEP to deliver on environmental and development transformation.