



South Africa's intervention on the discussion on UNEP@50

My delegation wishes to thank the Executive Director for the report. As previously indicated my delegation looks forward to greater collaboration between the incoming and outgoing Presidents of the UNEAs in the successful preparations and hosting of the commemorative event on UNEP@50 in Nairobi, working together of course with the secretariat.

We would wish for the preparations and all the discussions and outcomes of the commemorations to be underpinned by the pillars for sustainable development. Furthermore, chair we believe that the messages for the commemorations should include and call for support towards the strengthening of the UNEP Headquarter and the only UN Headquarter in the developing world.

The issue of implementation remains imperative in order for the work of UNEP to be further appreciated and felt by people through their livelihoods. This approach will not only position UNEP as the authoritative organization for the environment but would also highlight in actual terms, the opportunities presented by the organisation in positively impacting on people's daily lives.

This Mr Chair brings me to the point of outreach and engagement activities, that should include the involvement of regional and country offices – such activities will ensure interaction with people on the ground.

My delegation has taken note of the areas of focus in the working draft non-paper by Sweden in commemoration of Stockholm at 50, and wishes to highlight that the context in which these areas are viewed and agreed will be an important discussion in ensuring that there is a consensual outcome. Furthermore, my delegation wishes to underscore that targets and commitments in the envisaged outcome should not be an expectation. We

remain open to discussion as we continue deliberations on this matter through our Head Office in Pretoria and as we await the mandate from the UN General Assembly in this regard.