

**Malawi intervention during 9th Annual subcommittee meeting
on Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting delivered by H.E.
Mrs. Callista Jennie Mutharika, High Commissioner to Kenya
and Permanent Representative (PR) to UNEP**

- Mr. Chair,
- Excellencies,
- Madam Executive Director,
- Dear colleagues,

1) Mr. Chair, Malawi will be expressing itself on the various agenda items at the appointed time. However, as a way of general remarks, allow me to state as follows;

2) We want to thank you Mr. Chair and the CPR Bureau as well as the Executive Director and her team for the excellent preparations and organisation of this meeting. Dare me say at this point that your witty but experienced conduct at the main table Mr. Chair is legendary! This is the first CPR annual meeting to be held under relatively 'relaxed' restrictions of the lingering covid-19 situation. As such it is a pleasure to see everyone gathered here, including our colleagues from the capitals. And most welcome to those that have come from out of Nairobi.

3) At the outset, my delegation would like to align itself with the statements ably delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China.

4) It is my delegations hope that very soon we will return to normality, in as much as we are mindful that the virtual space enables and increases inclusive participation.

5) We have taken note with appreciation the well-balanced agenda that is before us for the next five days and also the manner in which the work has been organised. We believe that the agenda is useful for purposes of the oversight role of member states on the Secretariat. We hope that while the structure is helpful, it will remain flexible in its execution. In terms of the organisation of work, we find the arrangement for panel discussions as quite novel and likely to bring out positive and impactful results. We are keen to understand the criteria used to identify panelist. Lastly on this item, we do not want to create a hierarchy of agenda items. But suffice to say that my delegation will be paying keen attention on the proceedings of agenda items 4, 5. 7 and 9.

6) Mr. Chair, Malawi believes that multilateral cooperation through collective national and regional environmental policies and actions is critical in addressing and finding solutions to environmental challenges that the African continent and the world at large face.

7) In this regard, Malawi takes this opportunity to congratulate our African ministers of environment for the recently successful 18th Session of their Meeting held in Dakar, Senegal. While celebrating this, Malawi would like to emphasise that AMCEN meetings are an

important and necessary opportunity for the senior management of UNEP to directly engage with African ministers, including on the need for member states to play their fair share of contributing to the Environment Fund.

8) The foregoing notwithstanding, we of course remain generally grateful to UNEP Secretariat, and particularly so to the Regional Office for Africa (ROA), who serve as the AMCEN Secretariat. We applaud ROA for the invaluable support that they continue to provide to AMCEN as well as to the African Group in Nairobi.

9) Let me emphasise that what is important for Malawi is to engage on the status and progress achieved regarding the various resolutions adopted at the Fifth Session of UNEA. Therefore, Malawi looks forward to the presentations by the Secretariat and the dialogues that will follow.

10) As I conclude, Chair, we appreciate to have received on 23rd October 2022, letters from the Executive Director on some of the UNEA 5 resolutions. A broad reading of the letters shows that they basically outline the responsibilities that were assigned to the Secretariat for each resolution and then what has been done so far and plans for the future. While this is an excellent communication and public relations act, we want to be convinced how different really it is from the thrust and content of agenda item 5: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the context of the Programme of work. Under this agenda item, the same

information as contained in the letters has been provided. As such we would kindly request the Secretariat to share their rationale for the mentioned communication.

11) With these remarks, I thank you Chair.