

1. Right of reply – 24/10/2022

Our delegation has taken the floor in order to respond to the representatives of Ukraine, Great Britain speaking on behalf of western countries and EU.

We have responded to such allegations on numerous occasions, so we will not do it today again.

Please note that the issues raised in statements are in no way related to the agenda items which are under consideration today.

The level of hypocrisy is overwhelming. We would like to remind the western delegates of actions of their countries in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yugoslavia and others. It was never raised at UNEP. Millions of people died. These actions caused severe environmental damage. Where was UNEP? Where were all those states speaking of environmental damage now?

I would like to remind the Ukrainian delegation of the following.

On September 23-27, the Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions held referendums on their accession to the Russian Federation. The results of the voting have been tabulated, with the overwhelming majority of voters supporting unification with Russia.

Despite the provocations of the Kiev regime that gave criminal orders to massively shell areas where civilians gathered and civilian facilities, people were not afraid to come to the polls and express their will. Donbass, as well as the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions have made a free choice in favour of Russia.

In fact, they had no alternative left. Far from all people in Ukraine accepted the coup in Kiev in February 2014 that brought to power radical

nationalist forces that unleashed a bloody fight against those that would not accept it. For eight years, the population of Donbass was subjected to persistent and cynical attempts to destroy them. The decision of the residents of Donbass, the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions to seek protection from Russia was a natural result of the inhumane policy pursued by the Kiev regime.

The referendums took place in full conformity with the standards and principles of international law. The people of Donbass and South of Ukraine exercised their lawful right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter.

People of Crimea have made their right choice to join Russia back in 2014.

In the end I would like to stress that it was the Kiev regime 8 years ago who unleashed a war against the Russian-speaking part of population of Ukraine with the silent approval of the western countries.

The aim of the Russian armed forces is to put an end to the atrocities of the Kiev regime.

Russia has never started wars. We end them. And we will do it again!

2. Right of reply – 24/10/2022

First of all we have to state that the intervention of the US delegation on Ukraine has nothing to do with the today's meeting agenda.

And the US is the last country to make such accusations. This country is accountable for more than a dozen armed aggressions against many countries around the globe. Among them – Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and others.

Millions of lives have been lost during these aggressions and a heavy environmental damage caused.

Why we never discussed these conflicts in UNEP? - Because of Nairobi spirit.

But as soon as Russia stood up to protect Russians being oppressed in Ukraine by the Kyiv regime Nairobi spirit has been immediately forgotten.

If the US is worried about Ukraine and its environment it has to stop supply of arms to Ukraine, with which the Kiev regime kills civilians and destroys the environment of the liberated territories.

Intervention 3 USA – Fracking – 24/10/2022

We cannot agree with the statement that the US are the leaders of the international climate proses. For many years this country was not ratifying Kiyoto Protocol and joined the Paris Agreement with self-lowered baseline of emissions of 2005 - the year when the highest level greenhouse gas emissions in the US was reached. While the rest of the world take the baseline of 1991.

As we know, now the western countries are trying to replace Russian pipeline gas with liquefied natural gas, in particular from the United States, with its supplies to Europe increased by 23 billion cubic meters over the last 6 months of this year compared to the last year, which has already led to an increase in CO2 equivalent emissions by 13 million tons. LNG deliveries have a higher carbon footprint due to the high energy intensity of liquefying, shipping and regasification. In addition, LNG production and transportation are accompanied by methane leaks. These steps contradict the stated goals of the West to reduce methane emissions, including under the Global Methane Pledge.

The gas supplies to the EU come from natural gas extracted by fracking technology in the United States, which is an environmentally dangerous process and contradicts to the environmental ambitions declared by the US.

In this regard we would like to know if the North America UNEP regional office is planning to conduct an assessment of the negative environmental consequences of the increased extraction of natural gas by fracking in the US?

Intervention – 26/10/2022 - Financial issues

We thank the Secretariat for the presentation on the financial issues.

The Russian Federation has always been among major donors with its non-earmarked contributions to the UNEP Environment Fund.

It is very disturbing that only 2/3 of the total approved Environment Fund budget has been contributed so far (64 out of 100 million).

We are deeply concerned that the share of voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund has dropped from 30% to 16% in the budget of UNEP and the fact that only 15 countries provide 90% of Environment Fund resources. More than 110 countries are not contributing at all to the UNEP's budget.

In the text of the concept note for today's discussion (3.2.1 – Funding challenges for the UN System at large) we came across the following: I quote «food, fuel and finance crises emanating from the conflict in Ukraine» as the main challenge along with COVID for adequate funding of UNEP.

We underline that previously historical fluctuations in the contributions to the environment fund were never connected by the Secretariat with conflicts in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Syria and others.

Negative global economic tendencies were obvious long before February 2022. The current crisis emanates from irresponsible, inadequate and inept economic policies implemented by major western economies over the past decades. The main problem is the uncontrolled emission of empty money that disorganized global markets and finally led to the current systemic economic crisis.

We share the concerns about the financial situation of UNEP.

In this connection, we would like to invite UNEP in the person of CPR as its governing body to start a serious dialogue on the root causes of the current sad state of affairs rather than the creation of any limited groups of friends.

We believe that the lack of support on the part of a large number of countries is due to the fact that they do not see UNEP's work as something useful or at all relevant to the environmental and sustainable development challenges that they face.

UNEP's task is to show them that their interests matter and that the UN system can and will deliver the necessary support to those countries.

Thank you!