United Nations Environment Programme
9th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Nairobi, 24 - 28 October 2022

Dear Mme. Executive Director, Inger Andersen,
Dear Chair of the CPR, Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Finland, H.E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola
Excellencies,
Colleagues
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. The Group thanks the Executive Director and the Secretariat for the preparation of the working documents for this meeting on time and for the hard work towards a successful annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

3. Under Agenda Item 3: *"United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the reform of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",* the Group recognizes the efforts led by the Secretariat in the context of the reform of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasizes that the reform should result in a better delivery on UNEP's mandate, enhanced transparency, accountability, efficiency and oversight.

4. The Group underscores the centrality of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the need for a consistent monitoring and evaluation of the implantation of UNEP's mandate. We stress the importance of addressing gender parity and more importantly a balanced geographical representation at all levels of the Programme.

5. The Group reiterates the need for UNEP to strengthen its support to member states, including by providing them with specialized knowledge; informing policy deliberation and supporting the implementation of internationally agreed actions. Notably through the promotion of effective cooperation among all environmental stakeholders. The Group envisages UNEP as a clearinghouse for the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

6. In the fragmented landscape of international environmental governance, UNEP could serve as a "one-stop-shop" that Member States can resort to, in line with their national priorities and policies, asking for implementation assistance. Making use of its coordination role among the MEAs, UNEP would connect the dots between those requesting assistance, those with financial resources, those holding the technology and those who have developed the relevant capacities and knowledge, as well as serve as a platform for the sharing of best practices.

7. Under agenda Item 4: "*Implementation of the Programme of work and budget 2022-2023 of the United Nations Environment Programme",* the Group notices with concern that the greatest efforts to tackle climate change, reducing Green House Gas Emissions, protecting biodiversity and, taking measures against pollution, are coming from the developing world, which at the same time is the less contributing with its drivers. The maps and charts shown in the presentation, are useful to highlight the reason why existing international environmental frameworks were founded on the principles of equity; common but differentiated responsibilities; respective capabilities; historic responsibilities; and diverse national circumstances. The Group recalls that Member States bear common but differentiated responsibilities, as enshrined in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration, and adds that, within our respective capabilities, we are all expected to do our utmost to achieve full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

8. On the other hand, the Group welcomes the efforts made towards implementing resolution 4/22 on the Implementation and follow up of UNEA resolutions and related activities, and welcomes the information related to the monitoring and reporting portal. However, the Group emphasizes on the need to sensitize member states on its use and usefulness, and to build the required capacities for member states to make adequate use of this tool. For the Group, there is lack of training and knowledge about this platform, besides of course, the differences within member states in terms of technologies and means of implementation, that could guarantee consistent and comparable outcomes in measurements and reported data.

9. On Agenda Item 5: *"Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the context of the programme of work",* the Group reiterates its concern for the unhealthy trend of conditioning the implementation of resolutions to the availability of resources from donors. The Group considers that a balanced approach, in implementing all the UNEA's resolutions on an equal footing and each MTS thematic, foundational, and enabling subprogram expected outcomes, encourages trust building. In this regard, the Group wishes to reiterate its proposal to elaborate an implementation matrix that comprises all resolutions of the last UNEA, as a useful tool to help member States and the Secretariat launch, pursue and oversee the processes for their implementation.

10. As a crosscutting comment on this and other agenda items, the Group stresses the importance to realize the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and the full implementation of resolution 5/13. We urge the Secretariat to implement a comprehensive strategy to ensure equitable geographic representation through the increase of the representation of developing countries, in particular at senior levels, in order to have a truly inclusive Programme, adequately representing the diversity of its membership. This is to our view a condition necessary for the UNEP to succeed in delivering on its mandates.

11. The Group takes note of the references made to the implementation of the multiple resolutions adopted during the second, third, fourth, and fifth UNEA, when it comes to resolution 5/14 on plastics, the GEO7 process and for the establishment of a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution, among others. However, the Group would like to draw the Secretariat´s attention to the stage of implementation of other UNEA 5 resolutions, which have received less interest and resources, as it is the case for resolution 4 on *"Sustainable Lake Management"*; resolution 12 on *"Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management"*; resolution 10 on *"Environmental dimension of a sustainable, resilient and inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery"* and resolutions 1 and 6 on *animal welfare and biodiversity and health.*

12. The Group calls for respecting the content of the agreements reached avoiding going beyond of what was agreed upon in the implementation phases.

13. Under Agenda Item 7: *"Financial outlook and funding challenges for the United Nations Environment Programme"*, the Group takes note of the financial statements of the Program and encourage member states, in particular developed countries, to contribute with financial support to the Programme.

14. Under Agenda Item 8: *"Status of the implementation of the outcome of the consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives"*, the Group wishes to underline the methodological and political importance of this agreement for the benefit of our work with UNEP and for the recognition of the importance of fostering effective international environmental governance through multilateral processes and reaffirm the mandate of the CPR as stipulated in Governing Council decision 27/2 (paragraph 9), highlighting its oversight role in the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions and decisions.

15. Under Agenda Item 9: *"Consultation on the theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly"*, the Group congratulates the honorable Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Leila Benali, for her leadership in this process and for the manner in which she is conducting the intergovernmental consultations towards the definition of the theme of the Sixth Assembly. We consider the background document that will guide the next iterations of the membership on this topic as a good basis for our future deliberations.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.