

**INTERVENTIONS BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE 9TH
ANNUAL SUB COMMITTEE MEETING 24-28 OCTOBER, 2022**

AGENDA NO 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEP PROGRAMME OF WORK (FOR AFRICA) FOR 2022 -2023

Thank you Mr Chairperson for the opportunity to contribute to this agenda,

The United Republic of Tanzania would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to UNEP and Regional Office for Africa (ROA) for this informative report regarding its work in the Africa Region.

On the outset, my delegation aligns itself to statement to be issued on behalf of the African group on this agenda.

Mr Chair,

The timely and comprehensive manner in which this report has been availed is commendable. It has given my delegation a much needed opportunity to appreciate the depth and breadth of UNEPs work in Africa;

Further to that, my delegation wishes to applaud the invaluable support provided by UNEP towards the 18th AMCEN held in September 2022 in Dakar, Senegal. The conference was indeed a great success as has been reported.

Let me also echo accolades given to ROA by the previous speakers. Specifically, we applaud the increased engagement that ROA has had with our government through the Focal Person and the country representative and the Permanent Representative here in Nairobi.

They have been significant avenues to provide the required technical and operational assistance, that has helped to ensure that Tanzania stays the course within the multilateral system in addressing environmental challenges. Specifically, Tanzania has benefited from the work done by UNEP in the review of the National Environmental Policy and development of a new one which was launched in October 2021 and the National Environment Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (NEMPSI), 2022- 2032. These have helped to translate our environmental aspirations into actionable work plans.

As such My delegation would like to reiterate that UNEP as the global body for environmental matters, is instrumental in mobilizing the relevant stakeholders to support initiative aimed at addressing environmental challenges by providing finance, facilitating technology transfer and building the capacity of stakeholders and players.

Mr Chair,

On the implementation of the program of work presented by the Secretariat, my delegation would like to be informed on How does UNEP support countries in address social economic challenges resulting from environmental degradation and its solutions?

We know that climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution have magnified unemployment, energy deficiency and food insecurity – causing loss of livelihoods for many communities in the global south, that contribute less to their occurrence.

Mr Chair,

To be entirely successful, UNEP needs to assist countries in the global south such as Tanzania to develop and implement environmental protection actions that can also contribute to address these major social economic challenges – unemployment, energy deficiency and food insecurity.

To this end, Tanzania calls for the renewed development and support towards a succession project for The **UNEP Poverty – Environment Initiative** which comes to an end in December 2022. The renewed project should be an opportunity to take advantage of the gains and lesson learned from the ended project and catalyse key actors to increase investment in pro-poor environmental and natural resource management.

My delegation would like to be informed if there are any plans to renew the project and therefore take advantage on the poverty- environment link that has been presented here.

Lastly, where is UNEP? This is a question we hear often in our capitals from policy makers and partners and sometimes ourselves who are here in Nairobi guiding and overseeing the work of UNEP.

Reading from the rich and informative reports, it is evident that UNEP continues to remain the leading global authority that informs, enables and inspires countries to take action on environmental matters. Unfortunately, sometimes UNEP is not seen or heard locally.

To conclude my interventions, My delegation is of the view that UNEP needs to enhance its footprint at country level - while working with or through other organisations and platforms. Among the ways that this can be done, is through continuous engagement with the national governments and other stakeholders as well as carrying out adequate visibility initiatives at national level as per the UN

practise. The strengthening of Nairobi as the host of UNEP and the only UN headquarters in the south is vital in this regard.

I thank you Chair for the opportunity,