

GENERAL STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO KENYA

AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNEP

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP IN NAIROBI

**9TH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNEP**

CONFERENCE ROOM 2 - UNON

24 OCTOBER 2022

Mr. Chair,

Mm Executive Director

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

It is a privilege and an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, the African Group thanks you for convening this timely and important meeting and reiterates its support to you,

The Group appreciate you for the way you are steering our deliberations.

The Group also wishes to express its appreciations to the Executive Director and her team for the excellent quality of the documents we have received in preparation for this 9th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the CPR.

The African Group takes this opportunity to recognize the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under your very able leadership, for the tremendous work undertaken during the inter-sessional period for the preparations of this 9th Annual Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group believes that this 9th Annual Subcommittee meeting comes at a critical juncture. Gatherings after gatherings, recommendations, resolutions and decisions are accumulated and yet the state of the planet, our common home, is getting worse.

This entire week, we will be reflecting on various reports by the Secretariat pertaining to its work during the past few months. The Secretariat will shed some clarity on the way forward regarding the challenges ahead of us, from its perspectives.

The African Group is very much interested in shaping the United Nations Environment Programme that we want in the context of the reform of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The African Group will follow with keen interest the implementation of its Programme of work and budget 2022-2023 and the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the context of the Programme of work, as well as the implementation of the outcome of the consensual process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

The Group is aware of the financial and funding challenges for UNEP, and yet it scrutinizes the organizational effectiveness of the Programme. In this context, the Group will continue to do its part at the level of its capacity. In the meantime, the African Group urges those who are in position to do so, to raise their contributions to the level of their real capacity and to the level of our collective ambitions.

With regard to the relevance of the agenda of this meeting, the African Group is ready to engage constructively with all the participants and looks forward to having frank and fruitful discussions. The Group will be sharing its thoughts as we navigate through agenda items and looks forward to hearing from all the stakeholders.

The Group further trusts that by the end of our gathering we would have come up with clear guidance on the way forward on those busy agenda items.

Mr. Chair,

The Group wishes to echo the strong support of African Ministers of Environment expressed during the 18th Resumed Session of AMCEN, held in Dakar, Senegal from 12 to 16 September 2022 under the theme: "Securing people's well-being and ensuring environmental sustainability in Africa", for successful outcomes at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27) scheduled to take place from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.

During that meeting African Ministers committed themselves to continue addressing and finding solutions to environmental challenges that the African continent faces and to take advantage of the opportunities available to advance national and regional environmental agenda. They have also committed to continue taking environment and climate actions to unlock inclusive wealth creation that safeguards the socio-economic well-being of the people in Africa.

Such a strong resolve of Africa aims to step-up the continent's response to accelerate the green and sustainable recovery programme, to tackle among others the crises of climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution, desertification, drought and land degradation through enabling

countries and regions to take bolder action through integrating environmental considerations in their plans and programmes.

The Group also reiterates its strong support to the African presidency of UNAE 6 under the able leadership of Her Excellency, Mrs Leila BENALI, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable development of the Kingdom of Morocco, and recalls its attachment and trust to multilateralism in environmental diplomacy and beyond.

Furthermore, regarding specifically the issue of the theme of UNEA 6, the African Group takes note of the options developed and believes that those are good bases for further engagements.

At this stage, the Group stress the need of a transparent and inclusive process which would trigger an impactful collective engagement towards the future we all want.

Mr. Chair,

As I conclude, let me thank you most sincerely once again on behalf of the African Group and trough you the entire bureau of the CPR for your collective leadership.

The Group expresses the wish that the current atmosphere of conviviality prevails throughout this week and leads us to a fruitful meeting.

I thank you./-