Statement delivered on behalf of the African Group during the 8th Annual subcommittee meeting regarding agenda item 5 on UNEP@50

1. I thank you Chair for giving me this opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of the African Group on the agenda item under discussion.

2. **On UNEP@50**, as outlined on previous occasions, the Group considers the commemoration of UNEP @50 an opportunity to take stock of the past, reflect on the present and envision for the future. In this regard, the African Group once again calls on adopting the theme of "UNEP@50: Towards Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development for the Future we want" - as proposed by GRULAC and built upon by the African Group.

3. On the possible format, the African group generally supports ~~of~~ the format of the Special Session as proposed by UNEP Secretariat as shared through document UNEP/SC/2021/11/3 of 29 September 2021. The group takes note with appreciation, inclusion in the proposed format, its request for a Plenary Session to allow member states, specialised agencies and other stakeholders reflect on their experience with UNEP in its 50 years journey and share their thoughts for the future. Meanwhile the group would like to re-emphasise that the High-level dialogues/Roundtable discussions, as proposed by the

Secretariat should be organised on the understanding that the guiding questions for engagement will draw from the theme of the Special Session and the possible outcome for the commemoration. Lastly on this point, the group would also like to re-emphasise that the selection of participants to the high-level dialogues, while voluntary, need to reflect the geographical diversity and balance;

4. In addition, the African group would like to stress its willingness to engage on the possible outcome of UNEP@50 on the understanding that a clear roadmap regarding this process is agreed within the CPR and that the process is member-states owned and driven.

5. Furthermore, the outcome must be strong, focused, impactful, forward-looking and inclusive and emphasise on the strengthening of headquarter functions in Nairobi, means of implementation and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. As such, the Group is of the view that a "chair's summary" for the commemoration would not be sufficient. In addition, the African Group also wishes to further explore the idea of the Secretariat undertaking a gap analysis with regards to the means of implementation of environmental instruments, as previously proposed.