

138th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP 10 March 2017

Interventions on behalf of the EU and its MS

Agenda Item – Outcomes of the 4th Annual Subcommittee

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, Deputy Executive Director and representatives of the UNEP Secretariat, observers, ladies and gentlemen; I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member states are really pleased with a very productive and interactive meeting under your able guidance and that of the other members of the CPR Bureau. We also thank the secretariat for the documents prepared, the comprehensive and interesting presentations and the responses to the questions and comments raised.

We would like to share with you a few reflections on the meeting.

Firstly on the programme performance review. The results achieved are encouraging and the improved information provided to the meeting is most appreciated. As a next step we would like to encourage the secretariat to provide more insight on the reasons for either insufficient progress or overachievement as well as on how UNEP will take into account the identified challenges and opportunities in future implementation work. That would enable a better informed debate on how to overcome barriers to implementation or learn from successful examples in future meetings and briefings.

Secondly on the budget. We have highlighted already the importance of transparency and the need to provide, regularly and though the website, more detailed and comprehensive financial information on contributions received (in conjunction with pledges) and on the allocation of funds to the sub-programmes, both earmarked and non-earmarked. We would like to reiterate that this is of paramount importance to be able to better assess progress, budget allocation and overall performance across sub-programmes better. It is also vital to allow us to be able to provide guidance on budget reallocations where necessary, and to better understand how budgetary constraints in certain areas can be best dealt with.

With regard to resource mobilization, we appreciate that UNEP has highlighted the shortfall of, and emphasized the need for, core funding and we call upon the secretariat to take the necessary steps to engage a broader range of contributors to provide funding, in particular to the Environment Fund. And encourage UNEP to open a dialogue with

new potential contributors, rather than focusing on known contributors. We encourage UNEP to use the positive results of the MOPAN assessment in their fund raising efforts. At the same time UNEP should provide a first update of the funding strategy in particular rethinking innovative ways to provide a solid impulse to attracting more and more stable resources, including from the private sector. The CPR needs a new draft to allow the consultation requested by UNEA 2 to be meaningful.

Madame Chair,

Our third point relates to the role of UNEA in the UN system and the HLPF. Both the Secretary-General and the Executive Director have eloquently expressed the point that tackling pollution matters not only to the environment itself but to poverty eradication and prosperity, health, ecosystems/natural resources, cost savings and security. That is a key message that should resonate with the HLPF as well as with UNEA itself. We welcome the commitment from the UNEA president to actively engage at the HLPF. We consider UNEA's contribution to the HLPF crucial in providing inputs for implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. A clear message from UNEA and UNEP, illustrating how environmental issues are integrated, will do justice to the importance of the environmental dimension of the sustainable development.

Lastly, we would like to reflect on the preparation for UNEA. We have found the discussion and the thoughts expressed most

encouraging. UNEA 3 has the potential to explain, show, and deliver the benefits of taking action towards a pollution free planet. Gradually, the essential pieces for a successful UNEA are fitting together. Yet, if we want to make a big splash at UNEA 3, we need a spark to ignite the process. Perhaps a clear "call for action" could follow the background document which needs to be published as early as possible. And we encourage the Secretariat to take concrete steps towards making the set up of UNEA 3 conducive to galvanizing action and commitments from across the globe and from all relevant stakeholders.

Madame Chair,

We have appreciated the formal and informal interaction with many Regional groups, Members States and the UNEP Secretariat this week. We look forward to that continued interaction. A pollution free planet may seem like travelling to the moon. But lets's work together to make it a small step for us but a giant leap for humankind.

I thank you

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