

STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT THE 138TH CPR MEETING OF UNEP
ON 10TH MARCH 2017

Madam Chairperson
Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director
Excellencies,

The delegation of Nigeria would like to Congratulate the Chair, the Vice chairs and the Secretariat for successfully hosting the just concluded 4th annual subcommittee of the CPR meetings and to urge that the conclusions therefrom guide the preparations leading to a successful UNEA 3 in December 2017.

My delegation aligns itself to the statements and sentiments already expressed on behalf of the Group of 77+ China and the Africa Group. Furthermore, we note with appreciation, the ED's report on the agency's activities in Africa and especially West Africa and wish to commend UN Environment on its efforts to strengthen regional presence and ensure coordination of the organization's interventions at regional and national levels. Indeed, significant progress has been made in this direction. However, we think there is still work to be done especially in the following areas:

1. Improving coordination of project development and implementation for regional and national level intervention – We have observed that projects aimed to benefit regions, as well as individual countries are still being developed and implemented in a less coordinated manner, and with little collaboration with and approval of the regional offices. This creates confusion in the recipient countries, and in a number of cases, even the regional offices are unaware of these projects. This is an area that requires urgent attention.

2. Implementation of regional projects from headquarters or divisions - A number of projects and activities aimed to benefit the regions or countries are still being implemented from headquarters. It is our considered opinion

that such projects should be implemented from or through the regional offices since this reflects the spirit of 'Regional Presence'. Where capacity to implement is thought not to be existing in the regional offices, projects should include an approach that contributes to the development of such capacity.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, my delegation supports the UN Environment in its strategy to mobilize resources from member-states and has commenced efforts to ensure that the government of Nigeria fulfills its various commitments.

Thank you

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