Thank you. Chair. I have a very short intervention.

Mohamed Abdel Raouf from the Gulf Research Center and I am Representing the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group. This intervention is also supported by the Women MG.

We fully support the proposed increase of UNEP's budget for the biennium 2016-2017 coming from the Environment Fund from the current biennium's US$245 million to US$285 million, representing an overall increase of around 16% across the 7 sub-programmes under the Programme of Work. The increased budget should be allocated to the delivery of UNEP’s core functions such as ensuring science-policy interface that includes a dynamic dialogue between modern science and traditional knowledge systems, and more support for ensuring effective and active participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders in UNEP deliberations and decision-making processes, both at the global and regional levels.

Thank You