

**Statement by Mr. Zerubabel Tefera, Alternate Deputy Permanent
Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the
United Nations Environment Program, on behalf of
the African Diplomatic Corps**

on

5th Annual Meeting of the UNEP Subcommittee

Monday 22nd October 2018

Madame Chair

Executive Director,

Deputy Executive Director,

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and dear Colleagues,

I feel honored and privileged to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps.

First, the African Group would like to thank the Secretariat for organizing the 5th Annual Sub-Committee Meeting.

The African Group would like also to start with congratulating H.E. Mrs. Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Ghana, for assuming her position as the Chair of the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Group would like to reiterate its commitment and support to the new Chair moving towards the final few months before UNEA 4.

The Group would also like to welcome Ms. Joyce Msuya and congratulate her on her appointment as Deputy Executive Director of the Programme. We look forward to working with her and her team in the coming months.

Madame Chair,

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the UNEP Subcommittee of Permanent Representatives comes this year at a very crucial juncture in the organization's agenda; on the one hand, it comes a few months before the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and in the midst of its preparatory process, and on the other hand, at a time when a new process of negotiation towards a new "Global Environment Pact" is about to kick off here in Nairobi, hosted and facilitated by UNEP.

On this occasion, the African Group would like to briefly touch upon a few issues:

- 1- The Group takes note of the documents circulated by the Secretariat on the review of the current Program of Work and Budget and on the 2020-2021 Program of Work and Budget. We look forward to engaging with the secretariat and Member states on these issues during the week. We also take note of and support the new and creative resource mobilization methods the Secretariat is currently considering, with the note that engaging the private sector for these purposes should be in full coordination with Member States, and without any prejudice to UNEP being an intergovernmental body that serves Member States and has their priorities primarily as its focus.

- 2- With regards to the ongoing preparatory process of UNEA4, the Group would like to reiterate its standing position on the importance of agreeing on a few specific focus areas that draft resolutions can address. In the Seventh Special Session of AMCEN, held here in Nairobi in September, African Ministers have agreed on several priority areas including the poverty-environment nexus, land degradation, environmental displacement and migration, energy security, food security, green business development, waste management and biodiversity loss, among others.
- 3- Based on these areas, the African Group will be presenting its draft resolutions during UNEA, and we look forward to working with other Member States and regional groups towards reaching consensus on the general outlines of these draft resolutions, as well as on the ministerial draft declaration.
- 4- The Group takes note of the background document on the implementation of the outcomes of UNEA3, circulated prior to this meeting. This document comes at an important time and is a welcomed step towards updating Member States on the status of implementation of previous resolutions. Nevertheless, the Group is of the view that a more established and streamlined online platform needs to be put in place, where updates on the implementation of previous UNEA and GC resolutions can be tracked and assessed. The Group is intending to present a draft resolution in this regard during UNEA 4.
- 5- The Group welcomes the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group established in New York on the issue of the Global Environment Pact, including the holding of the first three substantive meetings of the Working Group in Nairobi in January, March and May 2019. To this effect, the African Group wishes

to reiterate its support to the process and requests the Executive Director to provide a briefing on the Secretary General's "Gaps Report" currently being drafted by UNEP, and which will constitute the main focus of the first meeting of the Working Group in January 2019.

- 6- Of equal importance to the African Group is the making available of provisions and financial resources for the full participation of the African Group and G77 and China negotiators from New York and capitals in the meetings of the Working Group held here in Nairobi. We believe this to be a matter of crucial importance for the transparency and inclusiveness of the process towards the eventual agreement on the Pact.

Madame Chair,

The African Group wishes to again reiterate its support. We look forward for a fruitful week of discussions and deliberations.