

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 Discussions on Program of Work and Budget During the 5th Annual Meeting of the UNEP Subcommittee

Thursday 25th October 2018

Mr. Chair

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and dear Colleagues,

The African Diplomatic Corps thanks the Secretariat and heads of respective division heads for their performance reports and for their presentation of Program of Work 2020-21.

The Group would like to make a general comment on budgetary matters.

Mr. Chair,

It is to be recalled that the Secretariat presented 3 budget options for the Program of work 2020-2021 and recommended an option which is a total of US \$ 910 million. In recommending this option the Secretariat already lowered the budget to a realistic level as recommended by a number of member states.

Meanwhile, the Group notes with concern that there are attempts to lower the budget further which will adversely affect the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver the program of work.

In this connection, the Group would like to recall Paragraph 88 of the Future we Want; in this provision the world agreed to strengthen UN Environment Program so as to enable it to deliver on its mandate as the leading global environment

authority that sets the environmental agenda. In addition, as demonstrated throughout this meeting, the organization has an important role to play in supporting countries as they implement the environmental dimension of the SDGs. Now is not the time to lower its budget estimates.

Mr. Chair,

Having said that, the African Diplomatic Corps would like to emphasize the need for transparency and accountability in the work and management of UN Environment Program. In this regard, we will follow closely the implementation of the measures outlined by the Deputy Executive Director in her opening remarks.

The Africa group needs further consultations on budgetary and the program of work 2020-2021 issues in light of the deliberations at this meeting. We look forward to further discussions on the Program of Work and budget 2020-2021, which will only be concluded at the 4th UN Environment Assembly.

The Group shares this statement via email for official records and incorporation of the key message in Chair's summary.

Thank You!