China’s Comment on Proposed Themes of UNEA3

China would like to thank CPR bureau and UNEA bureau for their great contribution to the 3 proposed themes for UNEA3, and is very glad to hear the comments of other representatives. China’s comment is as follow:

We understand that, according to the Rules of Procedure of UNEP, the theme of UNEA should be discussed and adopted by CPR meeting;

UNEA3 is a major event for global environment and sustainable development. China hopes that the theme of UNEA3 should focus on “environment”, which is the core function of UN Environment, and 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda. Such a theme will highlight the worldwide leadership of UNEP, and avoid too much overlapping the efforts that have been done by other international organizations;

China hopes that the theme of UNEA3 becomes a key contributor to its success, bringing a new round of global cooperation on environment, instead of triggering endless and unnecessary negotiations;

Since its establishment, UNEP has made outstanding contribution to solving environmental problems facing
developing countries and promoting global sustainable development. China hopes that UNEA3 could clearly identify environmental issues and challenges confronting developing countries, continuously enhancing their capacity building, and resolving their problems in real earnest.

Mr. Solheim said that, we need to speak about environmental issues in understandable language to make the environmental voice heard. In contrast to sustainable development goals, “detoxify” is apparently a non-popular word:

China thinks the proposed theme 1 and theme 2 are much too limited in scope. They don’t fully reflect the general concerns of developing countries, and can’t reflect the mandate of UNEP. Thus China can’t accept these two proposals.

On the other hand, the alternative titles of the two proposed themes are more relevant and pragmatic, which meet the demand of developing countries. China would like to support these two alternative titles, with preference to the first alternative title: It’s time to clean our planet: reversing the curve on pollution.