

## **Statement of the Czech Republic on SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Madame President,

The Czech Republic wishes to join other delegations in appreciating UNEP for hosting this first UN Environmental Assembly, and in particular the support provided by the Government of Kenya to this historical event.

We are also pleased to congratulate to Mr. Achim Steiner to his re-election of the UNEP's Executive Director.

The Assembly constitutes an opportunity to further strengthen UNEP's leading role in building the International Environmental Governance and the broad environmental partnership that is needed to effectively address the score of environmental issues for the post-2015 period.

The Czech Republic associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its member states. Let me however stress the three following particular aspects:

### ***1. Key role of the principle of sustainability as the overriding framework for the future development strategy***

It will be crucial to establish the Sustainable Development Goals, which would be ambitious, achievable and measurable.

We highly appreciate the work of the Open-Ended Working Group. The priority areas as presented in the last document of this Open Working Group are comprehensive and provide a good basis for being widely accepted and also supported by wide range of countries in terms of their implementation.

Nevertheless, we think that a greater emphasis should be put on the environmental protection as a cross-cutting issue. This should be reflected in development areas, such as energy, transport, industry or infrastructure and other areas, with regard to their environmental impacts.

Along with the sustainable development outlook, focus should be put on resilience of countries as to their ability to protect against and/or to cope with emerging negative global impacts and adapt to them.

### ***2. Green Growth Financing***

The Czech Republic welcomes the initiative of UNEP to focus on the Sustainable Production and Consumption and on the green growth financing.

Regarding the latter, the financing issue will become one of the key prerequisites for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Developing Goals, for the shift towards the green growth, and in particular for the implementation of the programs and projects addressing the environmental area.

In this context, I wish to mention the important role of the private sector and the business community.

Through innovation and investment in low-carbon and resource-efficient solutions, the private sector should have a major role to play in the transformation towards the green economy.

We may therefore want to look for new ways of harnessing the potential of the private sector as a financing partner, technology provider, implementing agent, advisor or intermediary to achieve more effective and efficient impacts in the fields such as sustainable energy, sustainable agriculture and agribusiness, and also green and social sectors.

### ***3. Importance of knowledge and evidence based environmental information and communication***

Referring further to the immediate UNEP agenda, the Executive Director presented to us various facts about the alarming status of the environment, with the urgency to act, and to act NOW. We share this view.

To convey this message effectively also outside of this UNEA conference, to our domestic politicians and wider international community, it will be required that scientific evidence about the environmental degradation and high costs of inaction constitute the calls for action.

To conclude, Madame President, let me confirm that the Czech Republic will continue to be a loyal partner to UNEP and will support its ambitious agenda by all possible means.

Thank you.