Programme performance review for sub-programme on Environment under Review

Thank you Chair, good morning colleagues.

We thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive documents and presentation.

We welcome the update on the sub programme on Environment under Review. It is indeed important to strengthen the science-policy interface and in particular continue to ensure that high quality data is available and accessible to support countries’ needs.

We have one short comment. As UNEP continues its work under this sub programme, we would like to reiterate the importance of ensuring that the data and scientific information put out by UNEP meets the highest standards of factual accuracy and scientific credibility. For example, it would be important to verify and cross check country data that is cited in UNEP reports with credible sources as well as official data from member states.

We look forward to UNEP’s future work in this area and to the continued enhancement of UNEP’s information outputs.

Programme performance review for sub-programme on Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

Thank you Chair. Thank you also to the Secretariat for the comprehensive briefing.

On the issue of marine litter, we agree that it is a key global challenge that we collectively need to tackle.

To address the issue of marine litter, we believe that a holistic view of the problem is important. In particular, if there is more technical information on the key sources of marine litter, in terms of the different sectors, for example untreated waste water, mismanagement of waste etc, it can help countries focus their possible policy interventions, such as strengthening comprehensive waste management systems.

On air quality and health, we would like to reiterate that this is a key area which UNEP should focus on. We encourage UNEP to continue its work to strengthen understanding of the impacts of air pollution including on health. Having stronger scientific information in this area can help countries in their policy making.

....