

Opening Statement by the Delegation of Switzerland – 7 October 2019

Mr. Chair

The delegation of Switzerland would like to thank the Executive Director for her comprehensive and action-oriented presentation and congratulates her on her first 100 days in Office.

Madame Executive Director, Switzerland would like to commend you on your leadership, your commitment, your proactive dialogue with stakeholders, including Governments, your competent, clear and still modest appearance at the international stage, which left an imprint at important high-level meetings as well as here in Nairobi. UNEP is in good hands. We also commend the management team of UNEP on its commitment, having followed-up on the recommendations of different review processes.

Switzerland attaches great importance to the Annual Sub-Committee as the anchor meeting for exerting oversight. This review meeting allows for both experts from capital and delegates in Nairobi to provide guidance to UNEP. We thank the secretariat for the early publication of the documents and look forward to fruitful discussions during this week.

Undoubtedly, there is a sense of urgency in environmental protection. As laid out by the Executive Director, all stakeholders, and governments in particular, are urged to intensify their commitment. Recently, Switzerland has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050. Apart from climate, the expectations amount to putting back the environment onto the highest political agenda. We have such an opportunity in 2022 with Stockholm +50.

The mandate to UNEP is clear and UNEP must deliver on its mandate. We will comment on the individual thematic aspects in the course of the week. The roles and responsibilities of UNEA and its governing bodies can be cleared and optimized in order to better support UNEP and UNEA. Switzerland will engage constructively in the CPR based Review process.

Member States must provide UNEP with the conditions to deliver on its mandate, including through appropriate funding. Switzerland has slightly increased its contribution in 2019. We encourage all Member States to contribute their fair share according to the voluntary scale of contributions to the Environment Fund to show commitment and ownership!

Thank you, Mr. Chair.