

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Dmitry Maksimych, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Nairobi at the 149<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP (Nairobi, February 18, 2020)**

Honorable Chairman, Honorable Madam Executive Director,

Dear Colleagues!

We are grateful to the Executive Director of UNEP for her report on the implementation of the UNEA decision 4/2, in particular on the preparation of a commemorative event on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockholm Conference on Environment, the major outcome of which was the establishment of UNEP.

We believe that the preparation of this event is solely the responsibility of UNEP and its governing bodies, in accordance with paragraph 8 of decision 4/2 of UNEA-4. No further decisions are required in this regard. All additional expenses for its organization should be covered by voluntary contributions. We are grateful for the proposal of Sweden to organize this anniversary event in Stockholm. At the same time, we believe that the role of Nairobi as the headquarters of UNEP should also be recognized.

With regard to the implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution 73/333, we believe that UNEA has the necessary mandate to prepare the final draft of the political declaration "of the UN high-level meeting", which should be finalized during the 5<sup>th</sup> session of UNEA on February 22-26, 2021.

We believe that the "UN high-level meeting" should not go beyond the UNEP anniversary format in accordance with UNEA-4 decision 4/2. In this regard, we see no need or reason for an additional decision of the UN General Assembly to hold this event.

We can agree with the schedule proposed by the Secretariat for further consultations within the CPR on the draft political declaration of this meeting. At the same time, we would like to emphasize that the delegations should start the immediate drafting of the text already at the first substantive consultations. We consider it to be a concise document of a general political nature. Countries themselves should work to develop a consensus on it, and this function should not be transferred to the Bureau or facilitators.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the delegations of Kenya and Sweden for their paper on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockholm Conference. In principle, we support the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important meeting.

At the same time, I would like to share some thoughts on the Swedish-Kenyan paper. It creates the impression that another UN political conference is being proposed. However, the goals of such a conference and the character of the final outcome are unclear.

In addition, it is also unclear to us what is the role of this conference and its outcome for the international process in the entire context of the SDGs and sustainable development on the whole. We are concerned about the risk of the fragmentation of the coherent concept of sustainable development, which has already proved its efficiency.

We would appreciate further clarification from the delegations of Kenya and Sweden on this issue.

Thank you.

P.S. Just another short observation. We keep talking about the strengthening of UNEP and its role in environment. At the same time we hear proposals to transmit an issue on environment to New York. To us, it looks like a contradiction.

Thank you.