

**Intervention by Malawi on agenda item; consideration of a draft UNEP
Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025**

I would like to thank you Chair for this opportunity to intervene on this important matter regarding the Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2025.

Let me begin by thanking all member states and stakeholders for actively contributing to the MTS document in its current format, through written input and consultations. I also join others in applauding the Executive Director and her team for the secretarial work done.

Malawi faces several challenges in the context of nature and at the same time benefits enormously from nature. These challenges have recently included; flooding, deforestation and wildlife poaching. Meanwhile, the opportunities derived from nature include sustenance of livelihoods through wildlife economy encompassing tourism, agriculture and food production. Therefore, any policies and programmes at international or regional level aimed at arresting climate deterioration, biodiversity loss and pollution are of particular interest to Malawi. It is for this reason that my delegation supports the 2020-2025 MTS in its current formulation with its emphasis on climate action, nature action and pollution action.

Malawi looks forward to a clear and transparent implementation of the MTS. During its implementation, we want to emphasize that the implementation should be underlain by the following four principles;

1. Adoption and full implementation of enabling resolutions

Malawi believes that based on a careful analysis of past and existing resolutions and decisions, UNEP should be able to identify gaps in existing interventions that will enable member states negotiate and agree on resolutions and decisions that are innovative in tackling the three identified environmental crises. Of particular importance is the need to ensure that adequate core non-earmarked resources are available for implementation.

2. Use of environmental mainstreaming as an enabler

My delegation has taken note of the functional and enabling programmes that will be necessary for climate, nature and chemical and pollution action. However, Malawi strongly believes that mainstreaming is also a key enabler for successful implementation of any environmental interventions. When member states integrate environmental management in the national policies and plans, through information availability, scaling up of interventions and institutional culture change, the possibility of success in tackling the various environmental challenges is assured. Our expectation is that UNEP through the MTS will help in keeping the environment on the agenda, making it a top political priority. Of course, in doing so UNEP should ensure that one or two of these environmental crises does not crowd out the others in terms of attention and dedication of efforts and resources.

3. Availability and cooperation in the use of financial and technological resources. (common but differentiated responsibility)

Solutions to environmental challenges such as those given priority in the MTS require a concerted use of financial and technical resources. In this sense Malawi believes that all states are responsible for addressing environmental degradation yet not equally responsible based on different trajectories of industrial development. It only stands to reason that effects of consumption and production are not equally distributed both in historical and contemporary terms. It is my delegation's expectation that the implementation of the MTS will be underlain by the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

The availability of resources should be fundamentally enabled with cooperation through transfer without conditions of technology. More often than not solutions to environmental challenges lie in simple, easily scalable and replicable technologies and scientific products and know-how. This simple reality is however affected by various barriers to technology transfer which are well documented and my delegation will not go into them at this moment. Suffice to

state however that technology transfer contributes to sustainable development. Of course I should hasten to add that it is not just about transfer of technology from the sending to the receiving country, but it is also about the availability of enabling policies in the receiving country.

4. The Poverty-environment nexus

My delegation has taken note that the MTS recognizes the importance of various nexus in environmental protection. My delegation considers the poverty environment nexus as very critical in dealing with environmental degradation. In the absence of poverty reduction initiatives, that aim to uplift the livelihoods of the majority of its citizens, a country cannot expect to effectively protect its environment. Therefore my delegation calls for continued innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms and policies that shift both public and private finance and investment resources towards poverty reduction and environmental sustenance.

Chair my delegation believes that if the aforementioned principles are utilized, the implementation of the MTS will achieve better success.

Lastly, while I still have the floor, let me take this opportunity to share with you distinguished participants that Malawi in its quest to ensure environmental protection has begun in earnest to implement legislation to set up its Malawi Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) by the appointment of a Board of Directors, The next critical step will be the setting up and strengthening of the Secretariat of MEPA in terms of staffing and structure as well as programme of work. We look forward to receiving support from member states and UNEP itself as this important body begins its work.