



SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERVENTION DURING THE 153RD MEETING OF THE UNEP CPR, HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2021

Agenda item 5: Preparations for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP

Thank you secretariat for your report and we appreciate the clear and really improved Strategic Plan on the commemoration of UNEP. It does indeed capture some of the sentiments shared by member States during the relevant meetings.

We also wish to align our intervention with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the African Group respectively.

Chairperson,

The commemoration of the creation of UNEP in 2022 is imperative as the event has a huge potential to reinforce the UN Headquarter in Nairobi, the global South and Africa. My delegation places importance on discussions towards strengthening UNEP to enable it to carry its functions as the leading global environment authority.

While taking note of the secretariat's proposals on areas of focus for the commemoration, my delegation wishes to underscore the significance of predictable means of implementation as well as the creation of a national enabling environment required to implement the sustainable development agenda, particularly in developing countries. Issues of resource mobilization and capacity building among others are important enabling mechanisms for the successful implementation of the envisaged outcome on the commemoration of UNEP. Furthermore, the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) for the management of all elements of the environment should be maintained as a global good.

It is without a doubt that developing countries are engaged in global discussions on science research and data collection in order to realise, at local level, relevant scientific and predictive information for policy planning and decision-making on many environmental matters. It is for this reason, as stated by the African Group; that we continue to call for an increased African voice in the science-policy interface.

Chairperson,

The proposed kick-off of the commemoration during UNEA 5 in February 2021 is welcomed and we call for continued engagements on the commemoration through the relevant meetings of the environment to highlight this milestone. Significant to the process between the kick-off of the commemoration and the final event in 2022, is the substance of the messages that will be shared in those particular events during the intersessional period. Moreover, the recognition of the successive conferences - in Rio and Johannesburg - and their agreed outcomes towards achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions for sustainable development.

I thank you!