



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SOUTH AFRICA PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
AT THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED COMMITTEE OF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES**

21 FEBRUARY 2022

Chair of CPR,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor

Let me take this opportunity to commend the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under your leadership, as well the Executive Directorate and the UNEP team for the preparatory work undertaken in preparation for the Resumed Fifth Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Resumed Fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly. Furthermore, I want to thank the Executive Director and her team in this regard.

Chair, my delegation wishes also to align with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the African Group respectively. Let me assure you of my delegations' commitment to working towards a successful outcome at UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50.

South Africa remains committed to addressing environmental challenges based on equity, science and sustainable development. We continue to

pledge our commitment to the international collaboration in this regard, which are evidenced by the successive conferences in Rio and Johannesburg that both emphasizes the multilateral to addressing global environment challenges.

We place significant importance to the fifth Session of UNEA and the commemoration of UNEP@50. Chair, we are very optimistic that the negotiations to the resolutions will proceed in a positive manner, and that we will find consensus as we seek to address a number of global challenges that our environment is currently facing.

We thank the President of UNEA as well as the Co-facilitators of discussions for a Political Declaration under UNGA Resolution 73/333, as the outcome of UNEP@50 for the consultative manner in which they conducted discussions. We are of the view that in both Ministerial Outcome Document and Political Declaration prepared under UNGA 73/333 for consideration at UNEP@50, some of the key elements to be taken on board should include, the special needs and circumstances of Africa and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in light of national circumstances. Additional and predictable finance, including technology development, transfer, deployment as well as capacity building to support developing countries also need to be taken into consideration.

We look forward to a successful outcome of UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50

I thank you,