

**SOUTH SUDAN'S NATIONAL STATEMENT OF HON.
JOSEPHINE NAPWON COSMOS, MINISTER OF
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY AT THE UNITED
NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA5.2)**

**Mr. President
Hon. Ministers
Heads of Delegations
Delegates
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you the greetings and well wishes of H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, who is unable to attend this assembly because of pressing issues at home.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the people and government of Kenya for the excellent hospitality accorded to my delegation and for hosting UNEA5.2 in the beautiful city of Nairobi.

Mr. President,

South Sudan is endowed with vast natural resources namely, forests, arable agricultural land, the largest freshwater wetland in Africa (Sudd Wetland), fish, wildlife, livestock, minerals, oil, etc. With the exception of oil, the rests of these resources are yet to be exploited. It's worth mentioning that these resources are climate-sensitive and likewise the total dependence of the population on forests as the sole source of energy has resulted in the deforestation of the natural forests causing vegetation loss, soil erosion, poor agricultural harvests, loss of pastures, flash floods and loss of wildlife habitats.

Mr. President,

The UNEA 5.2 theme “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goal’ is timely because Nature-based solutions are an alternative to the traditional method of development. Nature-based solutions offer the possibility of tackling huge issues like climate change and poverty in a cost-effective way.

To address the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation and pollution, South Sudan besides its ambitious 2nd Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NABSAP), will develop cost-effective nature-based solutions to address the recurring droughts, floods, land degradation and deforestation, crop failure, and biodiversity loss.

Mr. President,

South Sudan hopes that United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) will adopt resolutions that will galvanize states to redouble their efforts in addressing the unsustainable exploitation of nature and restore degraded nature ecosystems such that nature will continue to provide good and services for the wellbeing of humanity.

Mr. President,

Plastic pollution has reached an alarming state, the world's oceans, rivers, streams, and wetlands are overwhelmed with plastic waste, a moratorium on the production and a ban of single-use plastic bags is to be considered to rescue aquatic life.

On forests and Biodiversity, South Sudan commends the declaration on deforestation and land use at COP26 in Glasgow and hopes that it will access funding for the planting of 100 million trees in 10 years. To alleviate the pressures on forests, South Sudan plans to generate 3000 megawatts of power from hydro, solar, wind, geothermal, and natural gas, and this will require financial support, capacity building, and technology transfer.

Mr. President,

Our environment requires us to change our attitudes and embark on ambitious Nature-based solutions by actively protecting, sustainably managing and restoring degraded

ecosystems that are a source of our food, water and energy, wealth, and livelihoods.

Mr. President,

South Sudan aligns its self with the African Group position and would like to see the following achieved under the UNEA 5.2:

1. The Developed Countries Parties exert more efforts to reduce/cut down their emissions by increasing their ambitions and implementing their NDCs.
2. For South Sudan to be able to achieve the SDGs, there is a need for long-term financing from the developed countries and development partners.
3. Means of Implementation such as, Capacity building, Finance, and Technology transfer is paramount if South Sudan is to embark on a green development trajectory

Last and not least, South Sudan will play its role in assuring that this planet that we call home will continue to be home to our children and future generations.

Finally and most importantly, I would like to stress that by “Strengthening actions for Nature to Achieve

the Sustainable Development Goal”, we must tackle Climate Change threat to our very existence together.

I wish to affirm the political will and commitment of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development goal and its targets to the letter and spirit.

I thank you.