

5.2 United Nations Environment Assembly

Portugal National Statement at UNEA 5.2

1st March 2022

Madam Vice-President,

Excellencies,

Allow me to start by congratulating the Norwegian UNEA Presidency, the Executive Director of UNEP and our host country Kenya. It is an honour and a privilege to be here today, after two years of COVID-19 constraints.

At a time when the charter of the United Nations is being flagrantly violated, I seize this opportunity to express our solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

This is a time to reaffirm the importance of multilateralism and, as the world's highest decision-making body for the environment, UNEA is a proof that multilateralism works. UNEA must continue to face the challenges ahead and to be a forum of singular importance for environmental governance.



At a time when we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of UNEP, we would also like to reiterate its importance as the leading global authority on environment.

Portugal is fully committed to playing its part in UNEA's work and in supporting UNEP's mandate, in order to address the triple planetary crisis.

We were the first country in the world to commit to climate neutrality by 2050. In 2020, Portugal reduced emissions by 32%, in relation to 2005, and more than 60% of our power generation was based on renewables. Green hydrogen is now a strategic choice for us and, in 2021, we ended coal power generation.

We have developed strong policies to protect Portugal from severe wildland fire, to conserve its nature, biodiversity; and to achieve the goals of the UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration. We remain committed to protecting 30% of our territory by 2030, both on land and on sea.

Sustainable mobility and public transport support; energy efficiency in buildings, decarbonization of industry, bioeconomy, renewables gases and hydrogen, alongside investments in protection and restoration of water resources and support to enhance resilience and protection of forests are anchored in the Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan.



Ladies and Gentleman,

This week we have a unique opportunity to take decisive action on a global problem, which needs a global solution. Plastic Pollution! The multilateral approach is the way forward if we aim to achieve ambitious and effective results. This UNEA is in a privileged position to launch the process for the negotiation of an effective instrument on plastic pollution. Portugal has been committed to this process from the beginning and has been supporting ambitious action at this UNEA in the framework of the Nairobi Group of Friends to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, co-chaired by Portugal and Chile.

In this context, let me take this opportunity to invite you to participate in the UN Ocean Conference, which will take place in Lisbon, from 27th June until 1st July of this year as a result of a close and fruitful cooperation and commitment of Kenya, Portugal, the UN system and major stakeholders.

Mr. Chair, this session of UNEA must be remembered by our common ambition to protect the global environment. This meeting is key to face the urgent challenges we need to address. We are confident that, collectively, we will be up to the challenge.

I thank you.