



UNEA-5 Closing Plenary

Wednesday, March 2nd (3-6pm Nairobi time)

Closing remarks on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Thank you Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

It is my greatest pleasure to give some closing remarks on behalf of the EU and its Member States following what I am proud to say was a successful and historical UNEA!

The EU and its MS would like to commend and salute the tremendous work done by the UNEA President and its team, the Executive Director of UNEP and its staff, all members of the UNEA Bureau, the Chair of the CPR and all CPR Bureau members.

Most importantly, we would like to thank all delegations for their constructive engagement in the negotiations over the last 10 days.

Taking a look at where we were 10 days ago, and where we stand now, we can only be proud of the achievements we've made on a number of issues that will be key in addressing the triple environmental crisis.

We have demonstrated how important our Assembly is and its ability to deliver on outcomes that will positively change lives of our present and future generations.

While the eyes of the world were upon Europe following the unlawful act of military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which is a grave violation of the UN Charter, we did not lose sight of our mission and acted

responsibly, convinced of the role of multilateralism and peaceful diplomacy in meeting the challenges of our times.

When we return home at the end of this week, we will be able to proudly tell our children that we have created the conditions for a legally binding international instrument to end plastic pollution.

The EU and its MS are also pleased that we agreed on a common understanding of what are nature-based solutions. This is essential to scale up their implementation and avoid misuse of this concept.

After this UNEA-5, we will be able to state with pride that we have taken concrete steps to strengthen the scientific guidance provided to our decision makers, leading the path to the creation of a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution.

We can also say that we have met the objective set by the theme of this 5th session with nature and biodiversity that will emerge strengthened through concrete actions taken for the protection of animal welfare, the sustainable management of lakes, nitrogen or resilient infrastructure.

Many more challenges are ahead of us but we have demonstrated our sincere commitment to overcome them.

You can count on the EU and its MS to continue in this direction, raising ambition, taking up our commitments and leading the way on the international environmental agenda.

I thank you and see you in 2024.