

UNEP@50 SPECIAL SESSION

**ITALIAN NATIONAL STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ALBERTO PIERI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO UNEP**

4 MARCH 2022

Mr Chair,

Excellences, Colleagues,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU Commissioner on behalf of the European Union and its member states.

We commemorate today 50 years of UNEP, celebrating that historical moment in 1972 due to the visionary and forward-looking approach of those memorable people, gathered in Stockholm for the United Nations Conference on Human environment.

Since 1972, we have crossed 5 decades, changed century and changed millennium. In these 5 decades we have witnessed profound changes. If the challenges at that time had seemed already big, the current ones look enormous now.

However, on a positive note, we are not alone in facing these challenges. UNEP has grown up since then to become the by far main voice for the global environment. The spirit of Nairobi has become a symbol of integration and cooperation and the recognition of the value of the multilateral cooperation for the environment.

Mr Chair

The three planetary crises require crosscutting responses, and multilateral platforms to find common convergence on problems of such a vast magnitude.

The key point is to move globally towards shared objectives: as the pandemic has shown us, to build back better, stronger and greener requires a wide range of instruments and UNEP can provide us the way to do so.

The resumed fifth session of UNEA concluded last Wednesday with excellent results and ambitious decisions that give the international community and the young generations hope for the future.

To speed up the agenda and implement actions we need to close the gap between science and policy. UNEP, to this end, plays a critical role.

To underpin the science-policy interface and contribute to sustainable solutions in environmental problems, the engagement of all stakeholders, private sector, research and scientific bodies, financial institutions, regions and local authorities, is much needed.

This is the approach that Italy has been carrying out in this regard, and used for the consultation on the first national strategy for the circular economy.

Mr. Chair,

informed decision-making is the key brick through which we must address the challenges we are going to face. The longer we wait to act on the three intertwined global crises, the less we will be able to reverse their effects. Our actions now, as never before, affect not only the present generation, but also the well-being of generations yet to come.

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of UNEP is a great opportunity to demonstrate that a shared path of sustainable development is concretely possible, especially a peaceful pathway.

Thank you.