

National Statement at UNEP@50, 4.3.2022,

Timing-10:00 am to 1:00 pm, EAT

Name of the country: India

Name and title of the speaker: Mr. Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I congratulate **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on completing 50 years**, during which it has rendered exceptional service to the global community.
2. India has been engaging with UNEP since 1972, dealing with critical environmental challenges.
3. UNEP is one of the leading global voices on environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.
4. UNEP's 50th anniversary must serve to strengthen international cooperation and encourage collective action to address the major environmental challenges of our time, including climate change,

conserving and enhancing biodiversity, and tackling pollution and waste, while moving to the path of sustainability.

5. We must tackle today's environmental crises using the latest science and cutting-edge digital tools and technologies. For this, fostering global knowledge and technology exchange without barriers is critical.
6. In 2018, India hosted the World Environment Day on the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi gave a global call for eliminating single use plastics. This call of India provided the momentum leading to significant action on plastic pollution around the globe, culminating in the historic resolution and its adoption. We believe this will institutionalise 'Beat Plastic Pollution' around the world.
7. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary it is appropriate that UNEP also turn to paying greater attention to the question of the means of implementation. Provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity building would ensure that implementation of these agreements is not a mere burden for developing countries but a pathway to a greener and healthier planet.

8. Sustainable lifestyles underpin the survival of our planet. We believe that our utilization of resources must be based on ‘Mindful and Deliberate Utilization’ and NOT ‘Mindless and Destructive Consumption’. Our Hon’ble Prime Minister gave a clarion call of L.I.F.E. - Lifestyles for Environment at COP26 at Glasgow. We believe that UNEP should join hands with India to spread the message of L.I.F.E. to the global community with a view to safeguarding humanity and the planet.

9. India looks forward to stronger collaboration with UNEP on environmental issues including Conventions and multilateral agreements relating to the environment. UNEP should also build a robust portfolio of projects, particularly for delivering on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and other multilaterally agreed global environmental goals.

10. India walks the talk and speaks from a position of strength and responsibility on biodiversity and climate change. It is from this experience that India sends a message of hope and optimism that humanity and all nations together can strive together and meet these challenges.

Thank You and Jai Hind.