

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MRS. CALLISTA JENNIE MUTHARIKA, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MALAWI TO KENYA, AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNEP DURING THE 158TH UNEP CPR MEETING HELD ON 26TH MAY 2022;**

- Mr. Chair,
  - Excellencies Distinguished colleagues and participants;
- i. I thank you, for giving me this opportunity to present my national statement;
  - ii. From the outset, Malawi aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group;
  - iii. Since this is the first time, we are having a Quarterly CPR Meeting under your auspices, let me join those that have already done so to congratulate you, on assumption of office Mr Chair, and wish you the best of success in future endeavours;
  - iv. In addition, since this is my first time to address this august gathering in my capacity as Malawi's Permanent Representative to UNEP, let me state, with delight, what an honour it is! I certainly do look forward to more fruitful engagement with all colleagues here, those attending online, management and staff of UNEP as well as major groups and stakeholders particularly those working in and with the African region;

**Mr Chair,**

- v. I would like to thank the Executive Director and her team for an informative report that has been presented to member states today. Before I make some preliminary remarks on the report allow me to state the following
- vi. From 28 February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, the Malawi delegation joined other ministers of the environment or their representatives, to once again highlight the critical role played by nature and its resources towards achievement of sustainable development. There could have been never a better quest than such!
- vii. The challenge of our time - fifty years after the creation of UNEP - is that imbalances in available financing, technical capacity and technological access continue to work against progress in achieving a pollution free world, a flourishing and protected biodiversity and resilient climatic conditions;
- viii. It is abundantly clear that UNEA sessions must remain platforms not only to share perspectives and discuss solutions but also to commit collaboration, cooperation, national efforts and resources, in order to deal with environmental challenges. All in all, there is need to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnerships for sustainable development.

**Mr. Chair,**

- ix. As we look back at the outcomes of UNEA 5.2, my delegation's attention is firmly focused on the implementation of the fourteen resolutions that were adopted after rigorous, spirited, and at times late night to early morning negotiations;
- x. My delegation will not accept implementation of these resolutions in a manner that creates a hierarchy of attention or importance. We cannot over-emphasise this point. Malawi will expect regular updates, and will keenly follow on the progress regarding implementation of the resolutions;
- xi. The fourteen resolutions that were successfully agreed upon at UNEA 5.2, should serve as a reminder and opportunity for developed countries to fully implement their development assistance commitments and obligations; for all countries to fulfil their environmental obligations within the context of national circumstances and priorities; and further for all countries to mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.
- xii. The adoption of the resolutions is a clarion call to all member states to fulfil their financial obligations to the United Nations Environment Fund, in a consistent and timely manner. Of course, while doing so, we commend and

expect a continued transparent and accountable utilisation of these resources.

**Mr. Chair,**

- xiii. Allow me to get back to the Executive Directors Report. My delegation would like to emphasise that the Executive Director's Report must always ensure that those items that are always commented on by member states continue to receive the attention that it acceptable and meaningful;
- xiv. While we will make further comments on the assessment and lessons learnt from UNEA 5.2 and UNEP@50, Malawi believes that these landmark events continue to reinforce the importance of international cooperation in order to solve environmental challenges. One lesson that stands the test of time and must be recalled at all times, is that we gain much more than we lose from collaborative efforts; efforts that are undertaken in an open, transparent and inclusive manner;
- xv. As I conclude Mr Chair, let me use this opportunity to wish a successful outcome of the Stockholm+50 international meeting that will take place from 2-3 June 2022. While the Mission in Nairobi, will not be there, our capital and New York delegation will ably represent Malawi. We commend Sweden and Kenya for jointly hosting Stockholm+50. My delegation looks forward to receiving and engaging on a

report by UNEP Secretariat on the proceedings and  
outcomes of Stockholm+50

**xvi. I thank you Mr. Chair for your kind attention**