

**UN Environment Programme**  
**158<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 26 May 2022**  
**Agenda item 4 – Report of the Executive Director**

**Australia Statement**

- Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to thank the Executive Director for providing a comprehensive update report to the Committee.
- Australia joins other delegations in condemning Russia's unprovoked, unjust and illegal invasion of Ukraine.
  - the invasion is a gross violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.
- Australia strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity
  - we call on Russia to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukrainian territory, consistent with the legally binding decision of the International Court of Justice dated 16 March.
  - we support ongoing peace talks and all efforts to cease hostilities and end the war.
- Australia would like to join others in expressing our support for UNEP to undertake an in-country assessment of the environmental impacts arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- This assessment is directly aligned with UNEP's mandate, and indeed vital for developing a much-needed information base to understand the environmental impacts of the invasion.
  - through the adoption of UNEA Resolution 2/15, all Member States emphasised the need to adequately protect the environment when it is affected by armed conflict.
  - the Resolution also requested UNEP to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by armed conflict.
  - undertaking the assessment will honour the indispensable role that UNEP plays to support evidence-based decision-making on the environment. Data collected through the in-country mission will be key to supporting environmental remediation efforts in Ukraine.
- Thank you, Chair.

Mr Dominique Vigié  
First Secretary – Australian High Commission to Kenya  
Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat