Malawi intervention during 9th Annual subcommittee meeting on Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Programme of work and budget 2022-2023 of the United Nations Environment Programme, presented by Mr. Mapopa Kaunda, Deputy Permanent Representative

1. Let me thank the Secretariat for availing to us, in a comprehensive manner, the status update on the implementation of the programme of work and budget, which is arguably a key facet of UNEP’s mandate.

2. In that regard, we would like to make the following comments;

3. In adopting the 2022-2025 medium term strategy, emphasis is on climate stability, minimising nature loss and a working towards a pollution-free world. Such thinking of course has underlain the 2022-2023 Programme of Work and Budget. In making this statement, Malawi, in principle, would like to acknowledges the valid points raised by some members states that environmental challenges go beyond these three to include such problems as desertification.

4. That said, what is very critical for Malawi is that 2022-2023 POW is the first year of the current MTS. In as much as the calendar year is yet to finish, nine months into the year is a reasonable period to hold to account the implementation of the
2022-2025 MTS/start critically assessing the nature and extent of implementation of the 2022-2025 MTS.

5. In our view we must already start seeing evidence of a results-oriented implementation framework. In any case in the three quarterly reports submitted so far, there has been an attempt to show results across thematic, foundational and enabling programmes. In the context of indicator targets, what has been achieved or not. And why? Even in the absence of external evaluation, internal monitoring should already be providing helpful and credible insights into how this four-year journey of UNEP’s strategically focused work has started. It is important that we get as much of it right in the first year of the MTS cycle.

6. We note that the 2022-2025 MTS has highlighted the three key roles of UNEP, as a direct intervener, an enabler and an influencer. How much of this, in the first year is apparent. Yes, we have seen the contents of the quarterly report, where activities have been reported on. However, the question still remains, how relevant and impactful, is UNEP in the environmental story, one year into this four-year strategy?

7. We tend to measure, the performance of national administrations using the ‘First-100 days’ indicator. Borrowing from that, what does UNEP’s ‘First-100days’ of the 2022-2025 MTS look like. It is a simple yet valuable question for us.
8. As such we find that this annual subcommittee is a perfect opportunity to reflect in such a manner that we are presented with verifiable interventions that are targeting all parts of the globe. It is important that we get it right in the first year of the MTS cycle.

9. While we applaud the governance decision to have the Regional Offices/Directors make presentations, believe that must be matched with real, impactful and effective synergy between the Regional Offices and the seven thematic divisions of UNEP.

10. I thank you