Thank you Chair for this opportunity,

Since it is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I wish to express appreciation to the Executive Director and the Secretariat for preparing this meeting. And to your Chair for the able manner with which you are leading our deliberations.

Mr Chair,

On the outset, The United Republic of Tanzania aligns itself to the statement issued by South Sudan on behalf of the Africa Group on this agenda item.

Further to that, my delegation would like to join previous speakers to express appreciation to the UNEP Secretariat for this informative and enriching report on the status of UNEP in the context of the UN Reform agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Management reforms.

The findings on how environment matters are mainstreamed in the UN Country Cooperation Framework are of particular interest to my delegation.

My delegation commends the greater mainstreaming of environmental action in key economic sectors, namely agriculture, health, energy and manufacturing as has been shown in the presentation. This is a step in the right direction, which if maintained - is an assured way of achieving the SDGs timely.

Notwithstanding this commendable progress, the fact that there is limited environmental mainstreaming in country program analyses and low expenditure by UN agencies on environmental SGDs at country level remains a matter of concern.

Therefore, my delegation would like to bring up two points on this agenda:

1. First is the role of UNEP in creating partnerships at country level

My delegation would like to know What is UNEP doing to position itself as a champion of a system wide approach in creating partnerships to support the increased mainstreaming of environmental matters – at country level. Considering the mandate that UNEP has, my delegation believes that UNEP is better placed to bring together all stakeholders – that is government, civil societies, private sector and the public- at country level, to support the mainstreaming of environmental matters, financially and technically; since environmental matters touch each sector,
institution and people. UNEP should therefore take on this important role so as to make the UN reforms deliver on its promise.

2. Second is on the survey whose findings have been presented, My delegation is concerned about the coverage of the survey and report of its outcome; Recognising that national governments also have a role to play in ensuring environmental matters are mainstreamed – for instance in setting priorities of the UN country cooperation programs in the context of UN reforms.

Going forward my delegation would like to recommend widening the survey; to include more countries and to provide the outcomes of the survey at regional and country level. This would allow adequate reflection, advisory and therefore action on how to improve the situation, for both governments and UNEP.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.