

Russia – Statement – Agenda item 7

We thank the Secretariat for the presentation on the financial issues.

The Russian Federation has always been among major donors with its non-earmarked contributions to the UNEP Environment Fund.

It is very disturbing that only 2/3 of the total approved Environment Fund budget has been contributed so far (64 out of 100 million).

We are deeply concerned that the share of voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund has dropped from 30% to 16% in the budget of UNEP and the fact that only 15 countries provide 90% of Environment Fund resources. More than 110 countries are not contributing at all to the UNEP's budget.

In the text of the concept note for today's discussion (3.2.1 – Funding challenges for the UN System at large) we came across the following: I quote «food, fuel and finance crises emanating from the conflict in Ukraine» as the main challenge along with COVID for adequate funding of UNEP.

We underline that previously historical fluctuations in the contributions to the environment fund were never connected by the Secretariat with conflicts in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Syria and others.

Negative global economic tendencies were obvious long before February 2022. The current crisis emanates from irresponsible, inadequate and inept economic policies implemented by major western economies over the past decades. The main problem is the uncontrolled emission of empty money that disorganized global markets and finally led to the current systemic economic crisis.

We share the concerns about the financial situation of UNEP.

In this connection, we would like to invite UNEP in the person of CPR as its governing body to start a serious dialogue on the root causes of the current sad state of affairs rather than the creation of any limited groups of friends.

We believe that the lack of support on the part of a large number of countries is due to the fact that they do not see UNEP's work as something useful or at all relevant to the environmental and sustainable development challenges that they face.

UNEP's task is to show them that their interests matter and that the UN system can and will deliver the necessary support to those countries.

Thank you!