

**Statement on Behalf of the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA) to the January 19, 2023 CPR Subcommittee Meeting**

Thank you chair for the opportunity.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues of the Major Groups and Stakeholders, my name is David Ngigi Munene and I presenting this statement on behalf of the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA).

CYNESA wishes to express our sincere condolences to the High Commission of our sister-country Uganda for the demise of the High Commissioner to Kenya and Seychelles, Dr. Hassan Wasswa Galiwango.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Inger Andersen on her reelection as the Executive Director of the UNEP. We also congratulate the now Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Mrs. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema on her appointment as the incoming Deputy Executive Director to the UNEP. Recalling that the immediate former Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Joyce Msuya made significant contributions to expanding the space for inclusivity and progressive works in establishing the good reputation of the UNEP after some trying moments, we take this opportunity to applaud women leadership at the UNEP and wish both Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Mrema the very best. You have our support and we look forward to witnessing the space for deliberate inclusivity and meaningful engagement, and especially that of Major Groups and Stakeholders, across the regional offices of the UNEP and at the international level grow.

While thanking Canada heartily for hosting and the UNCBD CoP15 and China for their indefatigable leadership efforts, we also wish to congratulate Mrs. Mrema, her team, and all stakeholders of the UN CBD for the successful CoP15. With your leadership, you lifted the 1,862 brackets from the OEWG-4 Nairobi text that you mentioned during the resumed 18<sup>th</sup> session of the AMCEN in September and delivered 23 targets for biodiversity, people, and our common home at large. CYNESA takes note of the accommodation of the voices of faith-based organizations as key stakeholders during the process of developing the Kunming-Montreal GBF. We are hopeful that you have instituted mechanisms to ensure that this space only grows even after you move to Nairobi in your new

capacity as UNEP Deputy Executive Director. ***Kila la heri Bi. Mrema na karibu Kenya.***

While wishing you vibrant energy to keep bringing life to the CPR meetings, I thank you chair.