

Draft Opening Statement CPR161 March

Madam Executive Director, Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

[My statement is aligned with the intervention made by the EU]

Let me, first of all, express our thanks to the Executive Director for her report and the achievements made. 2022 has been an extraordinary year in many ways.

We see the adverse effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution manifesting themselves more profoundly in various ways in all MS, in particular in developing countries, and especially affecting poor and vulnerable groups with detrimental effects on growing inequalities in societies. These impacts are further exacerbated by the far-reaching impacts of COVID, conflicts, including the Russian aggression in Ukraine, with rising prices and pressures related to that.

We are grateful therefore that the narrative of the triple planetary crisis seems to resonate with a growing number of governments, international organizations and stakeholders and we encourage you, Madam Executive Director, not only to further strengthen the narrative, but in particular to further implement the work under the MTS to address the related challenges, and to continue to provide support to MS, through your normative work including robust science, guidance, standards, impact assessments, and facilitating strengthened environmental governance, as well as to demonstrate innovative approaches that can be taken up by MS and relevant stakeholders to support this work. Facts and hard data are necessary to feed into the decision making processes.

In going forward, we hope that UNEP through its work can help to break the silos to come up with innovative and integrated approaches to address the challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, while contributing to poverty eradication and prosperity for all, and help us to achieve our common goals for sustainable development.

While noting progress in the international frameworks for climate and biodiversity, it will now be upon us to implement them. We hope that similar steps be made on pollution: we hope for ambitious outcomes for chemicals and waste and on plastic pollution, as well as to establish a science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution. UNEPs role to bring these processes to a close is crucial and we call upon the ED to ensure a transparent and inclusive, MS driven process. We welcome, the information provided on the mandate, ToR and composition of the Technical Advisory Group for the OEWG on the SPP and wonder whether MS will be given opportunity to provide feedback.

I congratulate UNEP with the upwards trend of contributions to the Environment Fund and thank these MS that have made financial contributions and call upon others to equally contribute their share. The Netherlands is fully committed to continue to provide unearmarked support to UNEP.

I am also pleased to see the progress made in gender and geographical representation in the Secretariat. The transition from an organization with limited Membership to universal representation is not done overnight, and we take the results of strengthened efforts in the past years as a signal of the strong commitment of the UNEP leadership to follow up on the concerns expressed and work towards enhanced ownership of the organization. This I hope is recognized by others as well.

With UNEA-6 on the corner, we are pleased that the UNEA Bureau in consultation with the CPR has agreed on a theme that resonates very well with the Summit for the Future. It is our strong believe

that UNEA should make use of this opportunity to provide input to the Summit. We call upon all MS to consider how we can best deliver meaningful outcomes of UNEA.

Mr Chair, Executive Director, Excellencies,

While my delegation acknowledges the importance of the CPRs mandate to provide advise and to prepare for UNEA, I wish to recall the second pillar of the CPRs mandate to provide an oversight function on implementation and to organize thematic or programmatic debates.

I note with concern that, while particular attention is placed on the follow up on UNEA-5 resolutions, little attention has been placed on our oversight role on the implementation of the Program of Work as a whole and our meeting formats seem to lack a structured and strategic approach to get insight and engage with the secretariat on key deliverables of UNEPs program.

The discussion we have today following up on the Annual Subcommittee last year, provides good opportunity to improve our engagement. This is also a good moment to ask ourselves a couple of questions to see if we get out of the CPR what we should get out of it.

Are we focusing the right discussions? Do we have the information we need to understand UNEPs delivery model for climate, nature and pollution action and related enabling activities? Executive Director, do you benefit from our guidance to strengthen your program? How can we bring more purpose to our meetings?

I believe we could do better, make better use of our time and make our work more interesting in a way that we all benefit and to operationalize what we had agreed in the CPR based review:

If useful, the Netherlands could offer to facilitate informal exchange with all relevant MS and the secretariat with a view to provide a more profound recommendation to the CPR Bureau.

Thank you!