

**Statement by the United States on Behalf of Nine Member States
UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives Meeting
March 9, 2023**

I have the privilege to present this statement on behalf of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

February 24 marked one year since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In this, the first UNEP CPR meeting since February 24, 2023, we would like to reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with Ukraine and express our deep concern regarding the adverse impact of the war on the environment.

As has been well-documented in recent meetings, UNEP has long possessed a broad mandate to work to minimize the environmental causes and consequences of disaster and conflict.

We laud efforts to minimize the negative environmental impact resulting from the largest war in Europe since World War II, including transboundary harm to the environment and the related harm to human health and global food security.

What was true one year ago remains true today: the quickest way to end the environmental impact of the war is for Russia to stop fighting, withdraw all its forces and equipment from Ukraine and respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you.