To
Ms. Inger Andersen
Executive Director of UNEP

Excellency,

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly and in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly of a supplementary item, entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements”.

In accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, a supporting statement is attached to the present letter (see addendum).

I also have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Leila Benali
President of the United Nations Environment Assembly

To:
Ministers responsible for the Environment;
Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;
Major Groups and Stakeholders.
Annex

Supporting statement

1. In its decision 5/4 of 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly endorsed the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, as agreed at the eighth meeting of the annual subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 October 2021.

2. In paragraph 6 of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that under the guidance of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and with the support from the Secretariat and in close cooperation with the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the contributions and active participation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Environment Assembly be strengthened to promote coherence between the resolutions of the Environment Assembly and the decisions of the governing bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, while fully respecting the autonomy of those Multilateral Environmental Agreements and without introducing new and additional requirements for the contracting parties to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The proposed agenda item is to facilitate such contributions and participation by Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Environment Assembly while providing an opportunity for dialogue amongst themselves and with Member States with a view to enhancing effective environmental governance.

3. In this regard, in paragraph 6 (b) of the outcome of the CPR-based review, it is recommended that the Environment Assembly consider establishing an agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements” in its sessions.

4. Subsequently, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, at its ninth annual subcommittee meeting held from 24 to 28 October 2022 recommended that the Bureau of the Environment Assembly propose an amendment to the provisional agenda to the sixth session of the Environment Assembly to include a new agenda item entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”.

5. At its joint meeting on 30 January 2023, the Bureaux of the Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives decided to propose the inclusion of a supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session entitled “Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements”; and invited the President of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Bureau, to write to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to request, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly, the inclusion of the supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the sixth session.