

Kenya's Interventions during The Committee of Permanent Representatives' Subcommittee Meeting, held on 27th April 2023~ 10:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3) hybrid meeting conference room 1

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

H.E. Mr. Erasmo Roberto Martínez, Vice Chair, Ambassador of Mexico to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme, will open and chair the meeting.

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

2. Briefing on the outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

The Secretariat will provide a briefing on the outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, followed by an exchange of views with delegations.

Thank you Chair for giving me this opportunity to make my remarks,

1. My Delegation wishes to take this opportunity to add our voice to the global community and other distinguished delegations in calling for the cessation of hostilities in Sudan following the clashes witnessed in the country in recent weeks and give a chance for dialogue. The challenges affecting the country can be justly addressed through peaceful means. Kenya through IGAD is committed to provide the needed support towards resolving the conflict and restoration of peace.
2. My delegation further wishes to commend the secretariat for the preparations of a very informative brief on the outcomes of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.
3. The Water Conference was within the International Decade for Action: “Water for Sustainable Development: 2018-2028” proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly under resolution (A/RES/71/222), in 2016.
4. Indeed, the conference was timely considering that there is dire need to upscale action on the Water and sanitation agenda because it cuts across all the other SDG and coming after over fifty years since the last conference was held, the current implementation status of the agenda is alarmingly off the track to meet its 2030 target. The challenges resulting from the triple planetary crises especially climate change, have necessitated member states to renew their focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SGD 6.

5. My delegation applauds the work undertaken by the UNEP Delegation going into this year's Water Conference, whose theme was "Climate, Resilience and the Environment."
6. The recent drought experienced in the Horn of Africa, the worst in decades, brought to the fore the real threat and vulnerabilities to human beings, biodiversity and ecosystems, as a result of water stress
7. Kenya looks forward to the preparations going into the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, where the focal point will be SDG 6 with much reference to the outcome document of the Water Conference, as well as stocktaking on the achievement of this goal by various member states, particularly the three major indicators i.e. water quality, water monitoring and ecosystem restoration.
8. My Delegation acknowledges and applauds UNEP and other stakeholders for their support towards initiatives such as the launch of the Nairobi Rivers Commission, an initiative aimed at restoration of the Nairobi River to its famed glory.
9. In particular, my delegation would like to express our gratitude to the esteemed delegation of the United States of America for their support through the Global Water Strategy High Priority Country Plan for Kenya, especially related to the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) activities last month. This amongst other initiatives towards the achievement of SDG 6 is most welcome.
10. My Delegation submits that, Kenya has put in place various initiatives towards containment of environmental pollutants which affect the quality of water through better waste management including water recycling, and initiatives such as the proposed expansion of the Dandora-Ruai Waste Water Treatment Plant. In February 2023, Kenya also launched a major intervention through the Nairobi Rivers Sewerage improvement project phase 2 aimed at improving the related infrastructure and safeguard critical water resources from contamination.
11. Kenya is also set on rolling out a vast water infrastructure programme particularly construction of dams and water pans to store water which will go a long way to cushioning citizens against the vulnerabilities brought about by water scarcity, improving sanitation and hygiene as well as enhance food and nutritional security.

12. In complementing the efforts by the Executive Director of UNEP, my Delegation continues to rally member states on the significance of establishing the office of the proposed UN Special Envoy on Water, at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, in addition to other Multilateral Environmental Secretariats and Offices. This will serve to add momentum to the various initiatives toward strengthening the UNEP mandate.
13. Additionally, having the UN Special Envoy on Water based at UNEP Headquarters is also strategic, noting that most challenges in achieving the targets within SDG 6 are faced by countries in the global South.
14. Finally, my Delegation calls upon member states to support the Secretary-General in realizing the above before the SDG Summit, in September this year.

3. Briefing on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. The Secretariat will provide a briefing on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, followed by an exchange of views with delegations.

Thank you chair for the floor.

1. My Delegation welcomes the Secretariat's briefing on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.
2. Kenya has prioritized the sustainable use of ocean and blue economy resources as an enabler of her development agenda, Vision 2030. Kenya is an emerging economic frontier, and the blue economy is anticipated to contribute to economic development through enhancing food and nutrition security, coastal and rural development and increased revenue earnings along aqua value chains, maritime transport, and tourism.
3. My delegation wishes to inform that, Kenya remains a willing partner in the regional and international community in the development of a common position on addressing threats to oceans and other related challenges. It is notable that, two-thirds of the global waters lie in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction of Exclusive Economic Zones and this necessitates all parties working together in a coordinated manner to enhance knowledge and data sharing most importantly, development financing, for benefits from ABNJ's to be fully appreciated.

4. My Delegation takes note of the provisions under the agreed text for an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.
5. Of particular interest, are the provisions on capacity building and technology transfer such as assistance to parties in particular developing states, in implementing the provisions of the agreement; enabling inclusive, equitable and effective cooperation and participation in the activities undertaken; and last but not least development of marine scientific and technological capacity, in particular developing states parties, including through access to marine technology by, and the transfer of marine technology to, developing states.
6. My Delegation also welcomes the calls under the agreement, for assistance to developing countries such as Kenya in strengthening their capacity to prepare, conduct and evaluate environmental impact assessments (EIAs). This will ensure that activities on the high seas are properly monitored to prevent, mitigate, and manage adverse environmental impacts and protect as well as preserve the marine environment.
7. With regards to Marine genetic resources (MGRs) including benefit-sharing, my Delegation applauds the provisions therein such as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from activities with respect to MGRs and digital sequence information (DSI) in ABNJ for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in ABNJ; building and development of the capacity of parties to carry out activities with respect to MGRs and DSI and; the development and transfer of marine technology. This will go a long way in encouraging communities and countries to embrace the initiatives towards conservation of Marine protected areas.
8. Finally, in complement to the above, my Delegation submits that Kenya has established marine protected areas aimed at achieving 3 main goals namely; Preservation and conservation of marine biodiversity for poverty alleviation; Provision of ecologically sustainable use of the marine resources for cultural and economic benefits; and Promotion of applied research for educational awareness programs, community participation, and capacity building.

I thank you Chair.

4. Briefing on the UNEP Solar Radiation Modification Report.

The Secretariat will provide a briefing on the Solar Radiation Modification Report, followed by an exchange of views with delegations.

Thank you chair for giving me the opportunity to make my remarks.

1. My delegation takes this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for the briefing on the solar radiation modification research and development aimed at reducing the amount of incoming solar radiation reaching the earth surface in order to reduce global temperatures.
2. Taking into consideration that climate change is one of the triple planetary crises, Kenya applauds UNEP in its efforts to reduce the impacts of the impending crises through the introduction of the Solar Radiation Modification SRM technology. Kenya is taking greenhouse gas emissions as a matter of priority in its ambition to contribute to the realization of the Paris Agreement through the implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan.
3. In cognizance of the potential and uncertain impacts of deploying Solar Radiation Modification technology, Kenya proposes a precautionary principal approach to ensure proper informed decision making in the implementation of SRM. Taking note that SRM alone would not address the root cause of climate change, Kenya advocates that mitigation and adaptation measures to remain as first line solutions. Noting that these technologies while being deployed in the global north, the greatest impact affect those most vulnerable, particularly in the global south.
4. Finally, my delegation encourages UNEP to find more ways of enhancing awareness on the potential impact of deploying of such technologies, in addition to such informative research undertakings.
5. Lastly chair, Kenya would like to re affirm its support in review of the SRM technology in collaboration with all stakeholders in order to promote SDG 13 in combating climate change and its impacts.

I thank you chair!

5. Briefing on the outcomes of IP4.3 SAICM meeting and preparations for ICCM-5. The Secretariat will provide a briefing on the outcomes of the Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste and preparations for the Fifth

session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, followed by an exchange of views with delegations.

Thank you chair for giving me the opportunity to make my remarks.

1. My delegation welcomes the informative presentation made by the secretariat on the Intercessional process considering the strategic approach and sound management of chemicals and waste. Chemicals accounts for 6% of Kenya's economy in agriculture, industry and energy sectors. A clean and healthy environment free from pollutants from chemicals, is the right of every citizen.
2. With the help of UN special program on institutional strengthening for chemicals and waste management, Kenya seeks to establish the following; a chemicals unit to promote cooperation within the government and private sector and a chemical database to serve as a monitoring tool.
3. Taking note of the provisions of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions on management of hazardous waste, my delegation recommends that all stakeholders take into practice sound management of chemicals and waste.
4. My delegation takes note of the progress made during the IP4 meeting in Bucharest, Romania and its resumed session in Nairobi, Kenya.
5. We look forward to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-5) and the deliberations in developing a broad and inclusive international chemicals waste policy.

I thank you Chair!

6. Briefing on the preparation of the 2023 World Environment Day.

The Secretariat will provide a briefing on the preparations to observe the 2023 World Environment Day, which to be hosted by Côte d'Ivoire, followed by an exchange of views with delegations.

Thank you chair for giving me the opportunity to make remarks.

1. My delegation thanks the secretariat for the briefing on the preparation of the World Environment Day 2023. In the same breath my delegation would like to appreciate Cote d'Ivoire and the Netherlands for co-hosting this year's World Environment Day on 5th June 2023 as we celebrate the 50th anniversary since inception of this day in 1973.

2. Kenya indeed has the intention to having many activities on this day and looks forward to partner with UNEP and other stakeholders.
3. Like many countries, Kenya has struggled with plastic waste mostly around the Indian Ocean where about 3.7 kilos of plastic per capita leach into the water body annually. This being noted, Kenya continues to step up its own domestic efforts in finding solutions to the negative impacts of plastic pollution. Great progress has been made after the Presidential Directive to ban on single-use plastic bags. Banning single-use plastics in parks and protected areas nationwide has improved the health of the environment.
4. In addition, working closely with communities and in partnership with the private sector as well as UNEP, Kenya's national and devolved county-level governments are establishing a plastic waste management programme.
5. My delegation wishes to emphasize on the need to build upon the outcomes of the UNEA 5.2 specifically resolution14 on developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including marine environment, to facilitate access to technology, capacity-building, scientific and technical cooperation.
6. Kenya reaffirms its support in the 'Beat Plastic Pollution' campaign and looks forward to the 50th world environment day commemoration.

Thank you Chair!

7. Other matters.

The meeting will consider any other matters related to its work.

8. Closing of the meeting.

The meeting is expected to close at 18:00 (GMT+3)