

**Comments on the Zero Draft (May 2023) Ministerial Declaration for the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly General Comments by the Permanent Mission of Malawi to UNEP**

General remark

The zero draft declaration addresses the need to ensure multilateral engagement approach in tackling environmental challenges as noted from paragraphs 7, and further note the emphasis placed on UNEP's role in the intergovernmental process as seen from paragraphs 12 and 13

Proposal

To emphasise viability and role of regional environmental forums as catalytic tool for multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges and also the viability and continued necessity of UNEP regional offices in fostering multilateral cooperation by member states in contributing to dealing with emphasis in the, we propose the following new language and paragraph after paragraph 12:

“We call upon UNEP to enhance support and to facilitate convening and/or strengthening the existing regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities, as viable intergovernmental process, within countries of the respective regions, for multilateral cooperation in tackling prevalent environmental challenges. Further noting the role and support of UNEP Regional Offices to the regional forums, we appreciate a UNEP delivery model that ensures a catalytic role of the UNEP Regional offices”.

**19th June 2023**

**Nairobi**