

**Statement of the President of the Sixth Session  
of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

**The 10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the CPR**

**“Agenda item 4: Preparations for UNEA-6”**

**Wednesday, 22 November 2023 – 08:00 am (Rabat time)**

Your Excellency Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Ambassador and Permanent Representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,  
Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director,  
Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Colleagues from the Secretariat,

1. I am very honored to address you at the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) which comes at a critical juncture in our preparations towards the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
2. As the President of UNEA, I want to start by thanking all Member States and their missions for their support and dedicated efforts towards a successful UNEA-6.
3. The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will provide a center stage of environmental multilateralism and reinvigorated leadership that can deliver timely, effective and inclusive actions commensurate with the scale and speed of response needed to strengthen the resilience to global risks and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The world will be watching us and expectations are high for substantial and concrete outcomes.
4. You will therefore agree with me, UNEA-6 outcomes must be bold, timebound, and ambitious to deliver on the current environmental challenges. They will represent our current collective thinking on prevailing environmental issues and will be a vital step in the need for action.
5. The role of the CPR will be key in that respect. You may indeed recall that the outcome of the CPR-based review - as endorsed by UNEA at its previous session through its decision 5/4 - encouraged an “early,

inclusive and transparent inter-sessional preparatory process with appropriate Secretariat support for the timely submission, consideration and negotiation of draft resolutions and decisions tabled for adoption at UNEA sessions”. This inter-sessional preparatory process is to be conducted under the auspices of the CPR.

6. In this regard, the UNEA and CPR Bureaux, at their Joint retreat held in July 2023, which I had the honour to co-chair with the Chair of the CPR, His Excellency Firas Khouri, the joint Bureaux approved among other documents the guidelines (including timeline) for the submission of draft resolutions and decision for UNEA-6. I thank the Secretariat for the efforts in informing Member States on these guidelines for submission of draft resolutions and decisions through all the regional Ministerial fora and at the 163<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting of the CPR.
7. In keeping with the outcome of the CPR-based review and with the recommendation of the two Bureaux, I therefore thank those who already announce their intentions for presenting draft resolutions or decisions for UNEA-6, or associated concept notes, with a view to facilitating early consultations and effective preparation of intersessional consultations and negotiations.
8. I also encourage all of you to engage with each other to foster collaboration, co-sponsorship, consolidation of proposals and avoid duplication of work. I urge all Member States to **respect the deadline of 18 December** for the submission of draft proposals as well as the procedure as outlined in the guidelines recommended by the two Bureaux.
9. Under the leadership of the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, I have no doubt that the work of the CPR in considering and preparing the draft resolutions and decisions through the sixth open-ended meeting, will lay a very solid foundation for UNEA-6.
10. Furthermore, I also had the opportunity to witness the strong and committed engagement of all Member States, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and stakeholders and other stakeholders

during the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, the Arab Forum for Environment and the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in August and October.

11. These fora provided an important opportunity to review the progress of implementation of UNEA resolutions in the region and the work of the regional platforms where UNEP is the secretariat, including on how these deliver on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the regional commitments to multilateral environmental agreements.
12. Your engagement and contributions during these Ministerial Fora is a proof that environmental multilateralism is back. Regional voices have played a key role. The outcomes of these significant discussions will be submitted to UNEA-6 and will contribute to ensure that UNEA-6 delivers a strong and focused outcome.
13. Allow me to take this opportunity to emphasize that the active participation of major groups and stakeholders will play a key role in a successful UNEA-6. I call for an active participation of all relevant stakeholders. Their contributions will be important in providing expert input and advice at UNEA-6 and their role will be key in the implementation of resolutions and decisions to be adopted at UNEA-6.
14. Before I conclude, allow me to also thank all Member States for their valuable inputs on the draft ministerial declaration for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. I am truly grateful for all the views expressed as this ensures that the process is as open, transparent and inclusive as possible.
15. I would also like to thank Member States for their support and the constructive approach shown throughout the process so far. I sincerely hope that we can conclude the consultations on the draft ministerial declaration before the start of UNEA-6. Since the outset of the consultations, I have pledged to work with all delegations to develop a

ministerial declaration which is ambitious, balanced, concise and action oriented. A consensus based ministerial declaration which illustrates effective, inclusive and sustainable actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is fundamental to a successful UNEA in February next year.

16. I wish to recall that the fourth informal consultation on the second draft of the ministerial declaration is planned for Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 14:00 to be held in a hybrid format. During the informal consultation, reading of the second draft ministerial declaration will continue and delegations will be invited to provide concrete comments and inputs paragraph-by-paragraph. I am very pleased with the progress made so far thanks to your collective efforts. We have a solid second draft and I would be grateful if delegations could continue discussions keeping up with this constructive approach by providing focused and brief comments, so that we deliver an ambitious and action oriented ministerial declaration for UNEA-6.
17. I hope that the reading of the second draft can conclude on 7 December to allow me to circulate a CLEAN final version of the draft ministerial declaration as indicated in the roadmap.
18. Let me conclude by acknowledging and thanking the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, His Excellency Firas Khouri, and also by expressing my gratitude to the members of the Bureaux of the Environment Assembly and of the Committee, as well as UNEP, recognizing their tremendous support in the preparation towards a successful UNEA-6.
19. I wish you a productive continuation of the meeting and I look forward to seeing you again in February 2024 in Nairobi!
20. Thank you.