



**10th meeting
of the Annual Subcommittee of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP
20 - 24 November 2023**

*Opening statement on behalf of
the European Union and its 27 Member States*

- Chair, Madam Executive Director, distinguished colleagues, I am privileged to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. *Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.*
- We start the 10th Annual Subcommittee with a well- balanced agenda, which promises rich exchanges. We look forward to reviewing programme implementation, gaining better understanding of the UNEP's positioning on UN Reform and its efforts to improve coordination of UN system on environment. We also look forward to discussing ways to strengthen environmental multilateralism, and to getting a step closer to UNEA 6.
- The EU and its MS are grateful to the Executive Director and the whole UNEP team for this rich agenda and for your hard work to prepare this meeting and to deliver all the materials well in time.
- At UNEA 5.1 we adopted the Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025 and agreed on its shared priorities on Climate, Biodiversity and Pollution. We are now nearly halfway its implementation and we look forward to discuss progress

made and hear views from all MS. The Annual Subcommittee meeting is the opportunity for us all to have an informed discussion on how MS can help UNEP to better deliver on the MTS and on the programme of work using the resources efficiently, so that UNEP can better address the environmental emergency that we face, and support the MS. This is a two ways process.

- At the last Annual Subcommittee the Member States called to improve the work of the CPR, and we are pleased, that we start the 10th ASC meeting with agreed recommendations on how to do this. The EU and its MS welcome clarified and strengthened role of CPR Subcommittees in preparing quarterly CPR meetings, including through issuing recommendations, and we will work with UNEP to implement it in most effective way.
- The EU and the MS are pleased that we will have a dedicated item to discuss the widening of the funding base to UNEP, because only with adequate funding UNEP can implement the programme of work agreed with the Member States. A regular discussion on funding of UNEP should help raising MS awareness and contributions to the Environment Fund, and also should help identifying new and innovative funding solutions.
- The European Union and its Member States continue supporting UNEP throughout the years. In 2022, the total EU and MS contribution to UNEP came to almost 175 million Euro. The EU MS have contributed close to 50 million Euro to the Environment fund, which makes about 60% of all contributions to the Fund. This goes to show that we take our responsibility for the environment seriously.
- We applaud all Member States, and in particular developing countries, that contribute their full share or more to the Environment Fund, to provide UNEP with the necessary funding base and flexibility to support countries and the

international community to ensure that our shared goals for UNEP's work can be pursued.

- We call on all Member States, to contribute to the UNEP's Environment Fund, or to the thematic funds in line with the Rio Declaration, that calls upon all States to cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem.
- Finally, Chair, this week we will take another key step in preparations for UNEA 6. The European Union is ready to present our concepts for resolutions, and we look forward to hear from other UN MS on their proposals.
- This early exchange should allow us to use the remaining time until UNEA efficiently, to understand each others' ideas, to find partners, co-sponsors or to merge our proposals if they address similar issues. This should also allow all of us to submit by the December deadline, our resolution proposals and we encourage every Member States to do their best to meet that deadline in order to ensure an inclusive, orderly and structured preparatory process for a successful UNEA6 with the urgent aim to tackle the triple planetary crisis.
- The EU and its MS would like to thank the ED for sharing in a timely manner UNEP's perspective on the priorities that Member States may wish to take into account at the next Environment Assembly, through the ED's report for UNEA 6.
- With this, I conclude and on behalf of all EU Member States I wish everyone a most productive and successful meeting.