

**Malawi intervention during 10th Annual subcommittee meeting
on Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting delivered by H.E.
Mrs. Callista Jennie Mutharika, High Commissioner to Kenya
and Permanent Representative (PR) to UNEP**

- Mr. Chair,
- Excellencies,
- Madam Executive Director,
- Dear colleagues,

1) Mr. Chair, Malawi will be expressing itself on the various agenda items at the appointed time. However, as a way of general remarks, allow me to state as follows;

2) At the outset, my delegation would like to align itself with the statements ably delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 + China.

3) We want to thank you Mr. Chair and the CPR Bureau as well as the Executive Director and her team for the excellent preparations and organisation of this meeting. It is a pleasure to see everyone gathered here, including our colleagues from the capitals, who are most welcome to Nairobi.

4) This 10th annual subcommittee meeting is taking place in a situation where our host country is under heavy rainfalls attributed to *El-Nino* effects. Back home in Malawi, due to the effects of cyclone Freddy the country is actively enhancing the resilience of communities by implementing adaptation programmes. The loss of life, livelihoods and property, due to heavy rainfalls whether as *El-Nino* or cyclone Freddy, is once again a reminder of the negative effects of climate change, and a further reminder of the need to work together to deal with the various planetary challenges. This includes the need for ensuring that the loss and damage fund critical in this regard, is operational sooner rather than later.

5) We have taken note with appreciation the well-balanced agenda that is before us for the next five days and also the manner in which the work has been organised. We believe that the agenda is useful for purposes of the oversight role of member states on the Secretariat. We hope that while the structure is helpful, it will remain flexible in its execution.

6) Mr. Chair, Malawi believes that multilateral cooperation through collective national and regional environmental policies and actions is critical in addressing and finding solutions to environmental challenges that the African continent and the world at large face. It is because of this that Malawi is keen to have outcomes at UNEA 6, that strengthens multilateral action.

7) Malawi takes this opportunity to congratulate our African ministers of environment for the recently successful 19th Session of their Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We look forward to the able leadership of Ethiopia of AMCEN for the next two years. That said, Mr. Chair, while celebrating this, Malawi would like to emphasise that AMCEN meetings are an important and necessary opportunity for the senior management of UNEP to directly engage with African ministers, including on the need for member states to play their fair share of contributing to the Environment Fund.

8) The foregoing notwithstanding, we of course remain generally grateful to UNEP Secretariat, and particularly so to the Regional Office for Africa (ROA), who serve as the AMCEN Secretariat. We applaud ROA for the invaluable support that they continue to provide to AMCEN as well as to the African Group in Nairobi.

9) As I conclude, Chair, my delegation wants to applaud all delegations to the recently concluded Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC3) on developing a global instrument on plastics pollution. While the possibility of intersessional work was not achieved, we take comfort that going into INC 4, there is a document that will form the basis of engagement and negotiation. So while we may not be able to work in the intersessional period, we have work cut out for us at INC 4!

10) Meanwhile, let me take this opportunity to inform that Malawi is tackling plastic pollution by strengthening implementation

through education by including issues of waste management in the school curriculum. We are also developing a curriculum for enforcement agencies such as the judiciary.

With these remarks, I thank you Chair.