

Opening statement by H.E. Maarten Brouwer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Nairobi for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Madam Executive Director, Chair, Excellencies, dear colleagues,

- I align myself with the statement made by the EU, and have to pleasure to deliver some additional remarks on behalf of the Netherlands,

Madam Executive Director, Chair,

- This year we reached the halfway point of the SDGs. Everyone here knows that the challenges that remain are enormous and the trends are worrisome. Conflicts and the impact of the triple planetary crisis hamper much needed progress to deliver on the promise we collectively made towards the people we represent.
- While these days we seem to be more divided than ever, what we need is the opposite. The world needs us to come together, to form a global alliance and deliver results with lasting impact that make a difference to the lives of people across the globe.
- What we need is effective multilateralism, for planet and people. Or, in the context of UNEP - to quote the UNEA 6 theme – what we need is *effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution*.

Dear colleagues,

- That is why we are here.
To work on two things:
 1. A well-functioning UNEP that can deliver what we mandated it to deliver
 2. And to prepare for UNEA 6, which we cannot afford to be anything but bold and ambitious.
- In all of this we, members of the Annual Subcommittee, have a crucial role to play. Our actions are the fundament for all else. A solid, reliable, transparent and accountable UNEP starts with us, and the questions we ask, the changes we demand.
- We commend the secretariat for the documentation shared and challenge them, ourselves and everyone to keep striving for further improvement.
- Whether it relates to the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, the implementation of the UN Development System Reform, strengthening the development of integrated approaches, or the delivery model to implement the Programme of Work and Budget: together we can keep pushing UNEP to new highs.
- These might not always seem the most exciting topics to discuss, but their relevance cannot be overstated. Our oversight and governance provide essential guidance and controls. They ensure we head the right direction and that at other moments we can focus all of our efforts and attention to the urgent tackling of the triple planetary crisis.
- We welcome that this year we have agreed that the CPR will work towards more clear conclusions and decisions, about time I would say. We applaud this step towards a more effective governance model that allows us to hold UNEP and ourselves accountable. A good record of decisions allows us to also follow-up and can build progress towards future meetings.

Allow me to share a few more specific points the Netherlands believes are relevant

- We reiterate the call for all member states to contribute to the Environment Fund, and applaud all member states that contribute their full share already. We believe this too, is part of our responsibilities towards UNEP.
- Closely linked to this and in the context of UNEA resolutions, we call on all delegations wishing to propose new resolutions to seriously consider the budget required for the plans proposed. As we will further discuss this week, UNEP's flexible regular and core resources are stretched ever further. Tasking UNEP with new responsibilities during UNEA 6 that lie outside of the scope of the MTS and that are not financially covered ultimately undermines the effectiveness of UNEP as a whole.
- In turn, we believe strong collaboration within the UN Development System can improve UNEP's effectiveness beyond what it would be capable of alone. We appreciate the work already done and

shared, including the filled-out checklist, and we look forward to further discussing this week how UNEP can leverage the UN System and larger agencies with a bigger footprint in-country to increase its own reach.

In closing, madam Executive Director,

- The Netherlands remains strongly committed to UNEP and the role it plays in addressing the triple planetary crisis and achieving the SDGs globally, regionally and locally. We urge you to showcase bold leadership and a continued focus on results, as that is what we need for planet and people.
- We equally remain strongly committed to contributing to effective multilateralism and cooperation beyond divisions to play our part.

I thank you.