

*Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco  
Nairobi*



سفارة المملكة المغربية  
نيروبي

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**Statement of Ms Siham Mourabit, Deputy Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to UNEP and UN-HABITAT.**

**at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee of the CPR**

**On Agenda item 3 (d): UNEP in the context of the repositioning of the UN development system and country delivery.**

**Thank you Chair for giving my delegation the floor:**

- My delegation appreciates the very rich and useful presentation on this topic and the insightful interventions of Residents Coordinators who shared, generously with us, their own experiences, the challenges encountered and also their prospects;
- At the outset, my delegation would like to express its alignment with the statements made by the Africa Group and the G77;

**Mr Chair,**

- The Kingdom of Morocco recognizes the huge efforts and actions carried out by UNEP at the global, regional, and national levels, in order to meet the challenges linked with the environmental dimension of sustainable development and address the three planetary crises;
- With regard to the pressing existing challenges, in particular, in terms of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, Morocco considers that UNEP's action at the national level will have to be further strengthened and accelerated in order to avoid reaching irreversibility thresholds;
- Indeed, and despite the efforts made, **the results on the ground are far from meeting the expected objectives.** Scientific assessments carried out with the support of UNEP clearly show that the signals relating to the regenerative capacity of our planet are red and that fundamental changes in the way our societies produce and consume, have become more than essential;
- Therefore, I would like to make the following comments on the three main pillars of the presentation on UNEP's engagement with the Resident Coordinator System for a strengthened delivery at country level.

## 1- On the first pillar related to Climate, biodiversity and pollution in UN system planning at country level:

- ✓ Morocco appreciates the efforts made by the secretariat to engage better with the Resident Coordinator system for a better country delivery on climate, Biodiversity and pollution, and the feed back today from RC have spoken to that;
- ✓ A national evaluation on UNEP's engagement in my country has revealed that UNEP covers more activities related to climate change than to Biodiversity and Pollution;
- ✓ This transpires indeed from the presentation given by the Secretariat, and Morocco is thankful that UNEP is recognising this imbalance and willing to address it through the review of cooperation frameworks in order to improve the uptake of pollution, and biodiversity; My delegation would Like to ask the following question: **what are the reasons behind this imbalance? is it because of lack of financing or is it because of the fact that the issue of Climate Change has always been getting more interest and focus than biodiversity and pollution? or is it so because of the priorities of the country and what can be done to address that?**
- ✓ Meeting this objective is possible **through a better engagement of UNEP at the country level, on the three main challenges** (CC, Pollution, and Biodiversity) which leads me to my comments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar of your presentation on:

## 2- The Strengthening of coherent and strategic delivery at country level :

- ✓ Morocco is of the view that UNEP's delivery at the country level needs to be addressed **through the improvement of its coordination and synergy with existing environmental initiatives within the United Nations System, with the Resident Coordinator at the country level and with the UN Country Team;**
- ✓ In most countries relationship with UNEP is governed by a cooperation framework on sustainable development (as referenced by the RC in Thailand) which constitute a reference tool for planning, development and monitoring of the implementation of United Nations activities at the country level;
- ✓ Having environment issues covered by a global framework on sustainable development doesn't make it easy to address the magitude of environment challenges, Therefore the strenghtening of **UNEP's presence at the country level, remains crucial and should be considered by UNEP as a priority;**
- ✓ In this regard, two possibilities are proposed by Morocco to be considered: Either **(1)** the establishment of a UNEP representative within the United Nations Office at the country level, or **(2)** to have this representative be based at the UNEP Regional offices;
- ✓ My delegation took note of Mme ED's indication on the difficulty of having UNEP representatives based at the country level, **because of lack of funding**, and that her preference is to make use of existing focal points, however, Morocco would like to know more information on these focal points such as **how many countries these focal points are covering, and where they are based?** And also, **are the focal points, dedicated for the 54 african member states, based at the Regional Office for Africa to UNEP? Or somewhere else within UNEP? and how can member states touch base with them?**

- ✓ This could help **meet the objective of strengthening cooperation with the country on environmental matters and to instaura a coherent engagement** with UN Country Teams;
- ✓ Morocco considers that the identification of **country engagement plans** is a practical strategic tool that can contribute to better **understand the specific needs of the country and to better coordinate** with the UN Country Teams for a concrete country delivery;
- ✓ It could also serve as a tool to measure progress of **implementation of Multilateral Environment agreements, identify gaps, and review planned activities** and projects of UNEP in the country including the budget for implementation of such projects;
- ✓ In this regard, Morocco hopes that such engagement plans could cover more countries than the ones listed in the presentation; **on this particular point my delegation would like to know if it is possible to get an approximate outlook about when the results of the implementation of these pilot projects could be available, and what would be the prospected scenarios of UNEP in this regard?**
- ✓ In this regard, the expertise of UNEP, **available scientific data and the overall UNEP strategies**, can be of a strategic support to the UN Country Teams and to the UN Resident Coordinator, which will help further strengthen countries Political Science platforms and improve countries **access to reliable environmental data to assist in the decision making at the country level;**
- ✓ While my delegation has always advocated for the strengthening of UNEP and the consolidation of its headquarters, in Nairobi, as the flagship institution of the United Nations in the field of the environment, **Morocco believes that such strengthening will have to be done through the provision of resources and a more sustained presence of UNEP** at the regional, subregional and national levels;
- ✓ Last but not least, I would like on behalf of my country Morocco, to thank the secretariat for this very timely important discussion, and is looking forward **to continue engaging with UNEP on this issue and encourage UNEP to continue exploring additional ways** of engaging with UN country teams to address the challenges of the absence of UNEP country offices.

**I Thank you.**