

**164th meeting of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives
25 January 2024**

APG statement

Mr. Chair,
Madame Executive Director,
Excellencies, colleagues,

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

First and foremost, the APG would like to wish you all a Happy New Year full of energy to tackle the upcoming UNEA-6 and commend the Chair, H.E. Ambassador Firas Kouri, and the members of the Bureau for their leadership in steering the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The APG would also like to thank the Executive Director and the UNEP Secretariat for the thorough preparations for this meeting and the professional work across the region.

Mr. Chair,

As this is the first CPR of the year, the AGP wishes to reiterate its requests made during the 10th Annual Subcommittee Meeting in November 2023 to strengthen UNEP's regional offices with more financial and human resources, as well as to strengthen the UN Resident Coordinators and country teams to enable them to better respond to the needs of APG countries, in addition to implementing existing projects on the ground.

Mr. Chair,

The APG appreciates Madame ED's efforts expended in the report and would like, as a group, to support the request to UNEP made by the state of Palestine to conduct a report to assess the environmental damages in the Gaza Strip.

On UNEP's staffing, the APG welcomes UNEP's commitment to gender parity and promoting diversity and inclusion. Similarly, the APG also welcomes the progress of the Young Talent Pipeline initiative and would like to express interest in hearing an assessment of the initiative/program.

For the lessons learned in the quarterly report, we note UNEP's actions to address the importance of strengthening cooperation between the environment, trade, finance, and development communities. The Group wishes to hear more about the outcomes of these actions (e.g., hosting and participation in high-level dialogues with WTO members, and trade and environment stakeholders).

Mr. Chair,

On UNEA-6 preparations, the APG thanks proponents for the timely submission of proposed draft resolutions and the Secretariat for the proposed clustering, structure, and comprehensive technical notes for the draft resolutions. We also wish to extend our thanks to the Presidency, the Kingdom of Morocco, for its leadership in preparations and for steering the discussions and exchanges in a transparent and inclusive manner.

The APG expresses its readiness to exchange views and engage positively in the consultations.

The APG reiterates that it welcomes the "MEA Day", noting that several proposed draft resolutions for UNEA-6 relate to strengthening and fostering synergies and cooperation between MEAs and UNEP.

APG members presented draft resolutions on the following:

- “Strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities drought resilience” presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- “Promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development” presented by Japan.
- Two resolutions presented by Sri Lanka:
 - “Sustainable Management of Cascades Systems”, and
 - “Effective, Inclusive and Sustainable Multilateral Actions towards Climate Justice”
- “Combating Sand and Dust Storms” presented by Iran, and
- “Sustainable Lifestyles” presented by India.

Mr. Chair,

The APG and its members look forward to the exchange of views in the days ahead and stand ready to contribute constructively to UNEA-6 activities, resolutions, consultations, and negotiations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.