

## **Meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP**

**19-23 February 2024, Nairobi**

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

#### **Statement as delivered**

- Excellency Chair, Madam Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, distinguished delegates joining us today.
- It is my privilege to speak today on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
- Ukraine and Serbia align themselves with this statement.
- We are a week away from the sixth session of UN Environmental Assembly, which will gather participants from all over the world, offering an opportunity to deliver ambitious outcomes, including a forward looking Ministerial Declaration, that we hope will provide useful input to the Summit of the Future..
- Allow me to wholeheartedly thank on behalf of the EU and its Member States, UNEP Secretariat and the host country Kenya for the tremendous effort in preparing UNEA 6.
- Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions must be taken to overcome the triple planetary crisis, This must not only be a pledge towards our societies but must be a prerogative to heal our planet, to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and to ensure that we leave a clean and healthy environment for generations to come.
- We welcome the engagement between co-facilitators and major groups and stakeholders in the run-up to this OECPR. These crucial voices need to be heard, for actions to overcome the Triple Planetary Crisis to be effective.
- We need to use the time available to us during the Open Ended CPR wisely to consider the twenty proposals on our table,
- We appreciate the wide span and pertinence of the proposals, as they range from addressing effectiveness and enhanced implementation to calls for action on all elements from air, to water, to land, soil and ocean,
- The EU and its Member States have shared three resolution proposals.
- Firstly, with regards to water: we want to place emphasis on the importance of water across all sectors and in the context of sustainable development and the triple planetary

crisis, and underline the need to promote integrated policy making on water across all levels.

- Secondly, on the circular economy approach: based on strong scientific evidence, we are convinced that we must depart from the linear economic model and make the transition to the implementation of the circular economy approach which can bring multiple benefits for nature, people, and climate.
- Finally we are pleased to have tabled a resolution on the ocean, together with Costa Rica. The aim of this resolution is to emphasise the need to decisively act to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems, and to give impetus to implementation of global agreements such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the High Seas Treaty/agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.
- With these proposals we want to stress that it is indispensable to take resolute actions on water, circular economy and ocean.
- On behalf of the EU and its MS I thank those countries which have come forward with resolution proposals and those who shared views on resolutions proposed by the EU, together with our partners and supported by co-sponsors Based on these views we have submitted updated versions of our resolutions on water and circular economy.
- We have an intense agenda for the Open Ended CPR . It is not only a heavy workload. This agenda reflects the strong commitment to the importance of international environmental governance of all UNEA member states, the commitment to engage constructively in the upcoming discussions to prepare for UNEA 6.
- you can count on the willingness and dedication of the EU and its 27 MS States. Allow me to wish all of us a fruitful OECPR meeting this week,