



**THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED COMMITTEE OF THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (OECPR-6) OF THE UNITED
NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY 19-23 FEBRUARY 2024**

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT

19 FEBRUARY 2024

OECPR-6, NAIROBI

(Check against Delivery)

Chairperson of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,
Madam Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
(UNEP),
The President of the Assembly
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The South African delegation is grateful for the excellent organisation of the sixth meeting of the open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-6) by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), and the UNEA-6 Secretariat.

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group and South Africa is delighted to participate in this meeting which serves as a preparatory meeting of the UNEA-6 agenda.

As indicated by UNEP this session is very critical as it is the platform for member states and other stakeholders to pre-negotiate and deliberate the content and wording of proposed resolutions, declarations and decisions for endorsement and approval by the Assembly.

South Africa is also pleased that the issues of the organization of work, budget and programme performance, report on the status of implementation of previously adopted Assembly resolutions and decisions, and preparation of decisions and outcomes of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly are top on the agenda of the OECPR. All these are issues that are important if we are to realize a successful UNEA-6 free of politicization.

My delegation is also pleased that the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly will brief the Committee on the status of the consultation on the draft ministerial declaration to be considered for adoption at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Mr Chair, South Africa appreciates the work done by Morocco since its election as president of UNEA-6 and whilst we would like to keep the practise of negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration, we welcome the consultative process that is undergoing towards the finalization of the

Ministerial Declaration. South Africa looks forward to contributing to the last round of consultations during the OECPR.

Mr Chair, South Africa appreciates the efforts that have been done voluntarily by member states to avail themselves as co-facilitators of the many resolutions that will be presented before the UNEA-6. The work of the co-facilitators started during the subcommittee meetings of the CPR and will continue during the OECPR and finally present various resolutions for adoption by the assembly.

South Africa believes that the OECPR-6 will pave the way for the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) to examine major trends, deliberate on norms and standards related to environmental agenda.

In this regard, South Africa is here to support the establishment of the working groups and participate meaningfully during the negotiations of the draft resolutions and decisions.

Mr Chair, the South Africa delegation include experts on Climate Change and Air Quality Management; Chemicals and Waste Management; Hazardous Waste management; Biodiversity Monitoring and Biodiversity Risk Management.

It is also our expectation that the sixth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly will apply its collective wisdom to the environmental challenges of the modern world and come up with key decisions and concrete actions to address these challenges.

In conclusion Chair, South Africa is of the view that Member States will continue to be the source of funding for implementation of the resolutions to be adopted by the Assembly.

I thank you for your kind attention