

## **Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day: Opening Ceremony**

**Wednesday 28 February**

**09:00 AM EAT**

**-Draft speaking notes for the UNEA-6 President-**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, esteemed guests,

As the President of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, I extend my heartfelt welcome to the opening ceremony of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Day. This day is an important milestone in gearing up collective action to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss and pollution.

As representatives of our respective nations, we stand at a pivotal juncture in the Decade of Action with less than 6 years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

We have a shared responsibility and solidarity, recognizing that the challenges we face transcend borders and require coordinated action on a global scale. Our national perspectives converge here, under the auspices of cooperation and collaboration, and today we are united by a common goal: the protection of our planet and its precious ecosystems for present and future generations.

We must also acknowledge the unique circumstances and priorities that shape each nation's approach to environmental stewardship. While our

goals may be universal, the pathways to achieving them are often nuanced and context specific. It is within this diversity of perspectives that we find strength, as we draw upon our collective experiences and expertise to forge solutions to global environmental issues.

To mark the need for coherence and collaboration, the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly has included on its provisional agenda a supplementary item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”. This is a historical step on the road to strengthening convergence of action and dialogue on the global environmental agenda.

The Multilateral Environmental Agreements serve as a cornerstone of international cooperation, providing a framework through which nations can address shared environmental challenges. In the landscape of international environmental governance, they stand as vital instruments for supporting Member States to translate their vision for a sustainable future into treaties, decisions, resolutions, frameworks or action plans. With full autonomy and own governing bodies, they provide vehicles and platforms for member countries to review progress, negotiate solutions, and coordinate efforts towards achieving the objectives outlined in the agreements.

Today’s MEAs Day, the High-Level Dialogues, MEAs side events and Exhibitions will enhance the Environment Assembly’s relationship with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. This is a beginning of a new era of strengthened collaboration and partnerships, where we collectively leverage cutting-edge solutions to address the most pressing environmental challenges of our time and unlock new pathways to sustainability and resilience, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

As we embark on our discussions during this MEAs Day, let us be guided by a spirit of multilateralism and the principles of equity, inclusivity, and mutual

respect. Let us seize this opportunity to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and build partnerships that will propel us towards a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Thank you.