

Speaking Notes for the Director, Transparency Division, UNFCCC

Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day at UNEA-6

Opening Plenary, 28 February 2024

Introduction:

- Distinguished guests, colleagues, and fellow champions of the environment
- It is with great honor and a deep sense of purpose that I stand before you today on behalf of the UNFCCC Secretariat.
- I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the UNEP for the kind invitation to this important event, which brings together nations committed to addressing the global environmental challenges we face and extend my warm greetings to each one of you.
- This Multilateral Environmental Agreements Day at UNEA-6 carries immense significance. It is a moment to celebrate the collective power of our **shared commitments to tackling our interconnected environmental challenges**, and a call to action to strengthen them further.
- Ambition and acceleration must be at their core of agreements
- The UN Climate Change Supports Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to promote **transparency, accountability, and trust in climate action** across the globe.
- Transparency is critical to holding the world **accountable for its environmental commitments**.
- Today, I want to focus on the power of transparency in **amplifying the collective impact** of our Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Urgency and Opportunity:

- The science is clear: we face a critical juncture regarding climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. **“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral action”** is critical to combating these intertwined crises, as powerfully highlighted in the UNEA-6 theme.
- Fortunately, we have a powerful mechanism in place: a network of MEAs, each addressing a specific facet of the sustainable development crisis.
- MEAs are the cornerstone of **international cooperation in addressing environmental issues**. They serve as the **framework for collective action, fostering collaboration and shared responsibility** in safeguarding our planet.
- Maximizing a cooperative and harmonized approach to the implementation of the MEAs will augment the achievements under each one.
- **At COP28, we signaled the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era.**
- Overcoming significant challenges and often what seemed like irreconcilable differences. In Dubai, we showed that multilateralism works.
- The Climate process is focused on solutions. And the next two years fill me with hope.
- It will take an Olympian effort over the next two years to put us on track to where we need to be in 2030 and in 2050.
- The Olympic motto “faster, higher, stronger” should be our shared climate mantra.
- But, we also can’t afford to get the next two years wrong.

Synergy and Collaboration:

- Colleagues, let’s be honest; achieving true transparency across MEAs is no easy feat.

- We face challenges like differing reporting formats, data gaps, and limited capacity in developing countries.
- However, these challenges also present **opportunities for innovation, synergy and collaboration across MEAs.**
- We must **identify commonalities, and leverage each other's strengths.**
- **Sharing data, simplifying and streamlining reporting processes, promoting joint assessments and engaging stakeholders** can amplify our collective impact.

Building on UNEA-5:

- UNEA-5 recognized the importance of enhancing cooperation between MEAs and UNEA.
- Let's build on this momentum, ensuring MEAs effectively contribute to UNEA resolutions and vice versa.
- Together, we can create a **holistic, coherent approach** to tackling environmental challenges.

Call to Action:

- Colleagues, this MEAs Day serves as an important platform for collaboration and action and a catalyst for change.
- Let us leverage this platform to strengthen international cooperation in building **a more transparent and effective MEA landscape.**
- Let us renew our commitment to **strengthening transparency** within each MEA and across the broader environmental agenda.
- **By working together, sharing openly, and holding each other accountable,** we can build a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

Conclusion:

- The power of MEAs combined with **robust transparency mechanisms** holds immense potential.
- Let us seize this opportunity, **join forces, and collectively turn the tide on the environmental crisis.**
- Thank you.