



Your Excellency, the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;

Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates.

It is with great honour that I present this statement as the Head of Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini. I bring with me warm regards for you all from His Majesty King Mswati III; Her Majesty, the Indlovukazi and all EmaSwati.

Excellencies

Let me start by passing our sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Kenya for their warm welcome to this Great City of Nairobi and the hospitality accorded me and my delegation since our arrival.

Allow me to extend our profound gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for the tremendous work done over the past two years as Chair of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), which has culminated to this historic 6th Assembly.

The Kingdom of Eswatini reaffirms its total support to the Presidency, the United Nations Environment Programme under the excellent leadership of Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, and her team for all the good work done in facilitating this meeting.

Excellencies

The Kingdom of Eswatini believes that Multilateralism is the only hope for lasting global peace and for humanity to live sustainably in harmony with nature as we can learn from indigenous people. As we face the triple planetary crisis of Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution, let us use this 6th UNEA to renew the Nairobi Spirit of international cooperation to seek lasting just solutions to these challenges.

We applaud the achievements and milestones of this Assembly, which has contributed to addressing the planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste management. Eswatini acknowledges UNEA's positive global progress on; the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Global Framework on Chemicals, pollution and waste, and the UNEA 5.2. Resolution to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by end 2024, amongst others. These resolutions will contribute to the national action on ending plastic pollution and enhancing the Chemicals and Waste Management laws as well as contributing to biodiversity conservation in Eswatini.

Excellencies, on the global target towards net zero, Eswatini has been on the receiving end of climate change induced weather events such as drought, unprecedented tropical cyclones, hail and windstorms. These reverses some of the hard earned development gains.

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Scientific assessments continue to provide us with stark evidence that more needs to be done in addressing the environmental crisis. The global assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) details that Nature is declining globally at high rates in human history. Similarly, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report indicates that Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. Therefore, we are all called to take urgent and the necessary action based on this scientific guidance.

Through our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Eswatini adopted its first economy-wide emissions reduction target. Clearly this requires transformative changes across all sectors of the economy. In this regard Eswatini supports an outcome that will see the principle of Just Transition being respected to ensure that she leverages on the existing abundant natural resources for its security of supply of energy and enhanced investor confidence. Eswatini currently generates 100% of renewable energy which however is only 15% of total consumption.

In meeting the biodiversity targets, Eswatini is, among other initiatives, pioneering the global concept of “**Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)**”, and funding national programmes to increase the area under conservation by 10% of the total land area. We are therefore encouraged by the adoption of funding mechanisms such as the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund supporting various country programmes

including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which is currently under review.

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All the above initiatives are encompassed in the 2030 National Development Plan, which focuses on fundamentals of an inclusive, sustainable and effective management of natural resources and the environment; building resilience to climate change; environment degradation and disaster risk reduction through adaptation and mitigation. It is for this reason that Eswatini established a strong environment institution and developed a robust environmental framework on chemicals and waste management, environmental impact assessment, pollution control, biosafety, and management of genetic resources.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Eswatini is grateful for the support received from the development partners and welcome with great optimism the resolution on the restructuring of the Global Environment Facility. We look forward to carefully crafted partnerships that will contribute to global support in overcoming the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

I thank you.