

## **UNEA 6: Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution**

Distinguished Excellencies and Delegates

Cyprus would like to congratulate the tremendous work executed by the UNEA President and its team, the Executive Director of UNEP and its staff, all members of the UNEA Bureau, the Chair of the CPR and all CPR Bureau members, as well as the host country of Kenya.

At the same time, we recognize and appreciate the work done by the Member States towards the submission of the resolutions and especially of the Belgian Presidency on behalf of the member-states, by the institutions and Working Groups of European Union.

All the coordinated efforts completed to address the major environmental challenges -I am convinced- have a common target: to be able today, here in Nairobi, to finalize and deliver to the people of our planet watching us, the results, targets and means of implementation in a holistic and continuous order so as to tackle the environmental crises in a multilateral framework. The need for a sustainable multilateral action is even more pressing having in mind our obligations to reach the 2030 Agenda Goals and the SDGs. The climate crisis, biodiversity loss and pollution and water, are the main challenges of humankind that put the survival and well-being of current and future generations at risk.

We are confident that strong and effective multilateralism, is the best approach in dealing with these challenges. We need to perceive the need for rapid and effective action in a common sense and work

together to overcome the multiple crises. In this regard, UNEP is the proper forum to host and lead global efforts with concrete actions.

Cyprus, an island state located at the Eastern Mediterranean, is already seriously affected by Climate Change, with a year-by-year increase of temperatures and decrease of rainfall, resulting in desertification and degradation of our biodiversity. Water is also a very important issue for us, as it's the most vital resource for the natural environment and the people, and in Cyprus this valuable resource is scarce .. The water scarcity, the water quality deterioration and the fresh water availability and access to all, are vital at a local scale but are global in nature and in a basic analysis scale.

Biodiversity is the main natural capital we have inherited and we need it and depend on it, in order to prosper and thrive. Regarding pollution and waste, we are looking forward of the breakthroughs at a global level on plastic pollution, sound management of chemicals and reduction of waste that we urgently need to reduce the risks to the current and future generations.

In alignment with our EU positions, we express our decisiveness to work with all of you in order, not only to produce results, but most importantly, to produce and deliver hope for the people and the planet.

Thank you