

Statement by Mr. Ebrima Jawara, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources – The Gambia

UNEA-6: effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Thank you, Madame President for giving me the floor.

On behalf of Honourable Rohey John Manjang, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, I am honoured to deliver these brief remarks.

International collaborations are essential in the development, and implementation, of national action plans for climate change mitigation, and adaptation, particularly for a low-income, country, like The Gambia.

As part of its obligations under the Paris Agreement, in September 2022, The Gambia's Long-term Climate-Neutral Development Strategy: 2050, or LTS, was submitted to the UNFCCC, and subsequently published in its website. The Gambia's LTS is costed at a modest USD4 billion, and would definitely require bilateral, as well as multilateral partnerships for its effective implementation.

Multilateral partnerships can also help The Gambia, in developing and implementing effective waste management and pollution control policies and infrastructure.

Solid waste management continues to be a challenge for The Gambia. Indeed, our main concern is pollution from plastics. As it poses a serious threat to our waters, forests, wildlife and soils, which are the major sources of livelihood for a significant proportion of our population.

The Government of The Gambia has prepared, in partnership with Common Seas, a draft National Action Plan, to combat plastics` pollution. This has positioned The Gambia as a leading advocate for global plastics management.

By being a member of the UNFCCC, since 1994. Being a signatory to the Paris Agreement in 2016. And having participated in all the COPs to date, The Gambia has been given a voice, allowing it to advocate for its specific needs and challenges. However, together with other LDCs, disproportionately and unfairly impacted by climate change, we would appreciate more concrete and tangible outcomes from the COPs, particularly, the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.

The Gambia is ready to partner or work with any country, or organization, to bolster its efforts in making the planet a better place, for generations to come.

Thank you