

National Statement of India during Plenary of UNEA-6, 29 February/1 March, 2024

Name of Speaker: Mr. Naresh Pal GANGWAR, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the very outset, I would like to take the opportunity to thank **Her Excellency, Ms. Leila Benali President of UNEA and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco**, her team and the UNEP team, for organizing the UNEA-6 and the Government of Kenya for hosting us in this beautiful city of Nairobi.

India firmly believes in multilateralism and also respects Nature.

"Respect for nature is part of India's culture as we consider Earth as our mother. India believes in economic growth and prosperity with due regard to protection of environment and nature.

We believe that the "Nature protects if she is protected".

Excellencies,

You may recall, India's G-20 Presidency was guided by the theme of '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' - "**One Earth, One Family, One Future**".

The New Delhi Leader's declaration is an example of success of multilateralism. We believe that the New Delhi Leader's declaration will guide us in achieving our goals for UNEA-6.

Excellencies,

New Delhi Leaders declaration adopted **high level principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development** inspired by the vision of "**Life Style for Environment (LiFE)**" of **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**. India **presented** a Resolution for mainstreaming of these principles in UNEA 6 **with Sri Lanka and Bolivia**. We thank all member states, for their support to the agreement on the resolution in the Committee of Whole. **Adoption of the resolution will indicate the global recognition of Sustainable Lifestyles for Environment as a people centric road map to address challenges of Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and land degradation.**

Excellencies,

On issues of environment and climate change, we must, collectively, walk the talk.

In India, environmental sustainability and climate concerns inform our policies in all sectors. India achieved its NDCs targets much ahead of the target date of 2030 and subsequently enhanced the ambitions further. Our forest cover, number of Ramsar sites, community reserves have increased along with our high economic growth.

Excellencies,

We would like to stress that in our quest to tackle the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss, pollution, climate change and land degradation, we must ensure that **no one is left behind**. Our actions should be guided by the principles of equity and justice in line with the Rio principles, particularly the principle of CBDR-RC.

In realizing equity and climate justice, developed countries need to reach net-zero much earlier than 2050 and undertake deep negative emissions to release carbon space to developing countries for meeting their SDG commitments.

We congratulate all member state in achieving consensus on important issues upholding the Nairobi Spirit.

Now the onus is on all of us to act together to protect Mother Earth.

'Together, we can do it'.

Thank You!