



**166rd meeting  
of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP  
13 June 2024**

**Intervention on behalf of the European Union  
and its Member States**

First, allow me to express, on behalf of the EU and its Member States, sincere condolences for the loss of Dr. Klaus Töpfer, former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. He was the leading voice for the global environmental protection during his term at UNEP and beyond.

Madam Executive Director, Mister Chair, Excellences, colleagues. Good morning.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

This is the first time we meet in a quarterly meeting format after the UNEA 6. There are important lessons to be learned and we thank the UNEP Secretariat for initiating the process of assessing these lessons and for developing a set of draft recommendations.

We also thank all MS for useful CPR discussions and we are grateful for informal discussions driven by Argentina and the Netherlands. We trust that we can conclude this process soonest possible, paving the way for preparation of the next successful UNEA.

Madam Executive Director, your quarterly report yet again provided us a detailed overview of UNEPs activities. Today I would like to emphasise, on behalf of the EU and its Member States, the importance of the scientific reports released by UNEP in the previous quarter. The reports such as the Global Resource Outlook and the Global Waste Outlook draw our attention to critical environmental issues.

Conclusions offered by those reports are clear - for a liveable future, the current pattern of linear resource use needs to be halted with urgency, and zero waste and circular economy strategies must be implemented.

The world needs to act on those critical issues without delay. Allow me to recall, that the final meeting of the Open Ended Working Group on Science Policy Panel for chemicals, waste and pollution is taking place next week. This meeting is crucial in terms of delivering conclusions, important for the establishment of a science-policy panel. The EU and its MS remain open to work with all UN MS, to deliver the necessary outcomes at this meeting.

We also look forward to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Subcommittee, the discussion on the annual report, and on the new MTS. Madam Executive Director we look forward to discussing the new strategy in an inclusive manner.

We note with satisfaction, the increasing number of Member States, which have contributed to the Environment Fund, and we commend UNEP for its hard work to make the funding more sustainable. UNEP should continue its outreach to Member States, especially to those, who have not contributed before.

As several Member States are giving in-kind contributions to UNEP, and it would be useful to hear how this kind of support is made more visible.

The quarterly report details the core budget resources allocation by programmes, which is a valuable information for Members States. In the next quarterly report

the EU and its Member States would like this information be also available for the earmarked resources, to have a full picture of UNEP's budget allocation.

Today, we look forward to a discussion on the preparations for the COP 16 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and UNEP's role in it.

Finally, we hope to adopt a number of decisions and we thank the Chair of the CPR for skilfully leading us through this new process, which will allow the CPR to better exercise its role.

I wish everyone a productive meeting.