

**Statement by Finland at ASC-11 agenda item 3a, general remarks**

Excellency Mr Chair, Madam Deputy Executive Director, Members of the Secretariat, dear colleagues. As this is my delegation's first time taking the floor, we thank the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements and preparations for this meeting.

Finland aligns itself with the statement made by the EU and its member states.

We appreciate UNEP's efforts to improve gender mainstreaming based on evaluation results, as we heard this morning, and we look forward to being updated on the progress.

We also welcome the reported improvement in implementation of the UN System Wide Action Plan on gender equality and empowerment of women to 94% in 2023, from 82% in 2021.

However, we find that result to be a bit contradictory with what we learn from evaluation synthesis report, where gender equity together with human rights were among the lowest rated cross-cutting areas.

We note with concern that only 43 % of the reviewed project evaluations in 2023 met requirements relating to gender equality and women's empowerment, and expect this figure to increase going forward. We would be interested in hearing how this difference can be explained?

Thank you.