

Statement by Finland on agenda item 4

- Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.
- Finland aligns itself with the statement made by the EU and its member states.
- We thank the secretariat for having the funding dialogue as a permanent part of the agenda of the annual subcommittee meeting.
- We welcome the positive trends regarding the Environment Fund, as both the total income and number of contributing Member States has increased. We would like to thank UNEP for its hard work in implementing the resource mobilization strategy and emphasizing the role of the Environment Fund as the cornerstone of UNEP.
- We encourage UNEP to further diversify its funding base and stress the universal nature of the Environment Fund: every contribution matters.
- Finland has traditionally emphasized the role of non-earmarked funding, which is key in enabling UNEP to respond to new environmental challenges.
- UNEP is among the top three implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility. The new mandates GEF has taken over during the past year, further cement UNEP's central role in tackling global environmental challenges. We would like to thank UNEP for this active work.
- Three thematic funds were established in 2022 to allow more flexible funding. Finland was among those countries contributing the Nature Fund last year. We would like to ask, what are your expectations on the continuation of the thematic funds and future contributions to them?
- Thank you.