

**ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT AT THE CLOSING PLENARY OF THE
11TH ANNUAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME 8-12 JULY 2024**

- **Excellency Mr Firas Khouri, Chair of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives**
- **Excellency Madame Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP**
- **Excellency Madame Elizabeth Mrema Deputy Executive Director**
- **Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen**

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your excellent facilitation and steering the 11th annual subcommittee meeting of the committee of representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. Your able leadership exhibited during the meeting is worth commendation and ensured successful conclusion of the 11th annual subcommittee meeting held here in Nairobi.

Let me thank all the other delegations for their cooperation and spirit of multilateralism which has continued to be experienced here in the room.

Mr Chair,

Having sat here from Monday the 8th up to date, my delegation is confident that the meeting had done justice in providing oversight regarding the work of the secretariat, reviewed the implementation of the outcomes of the UN Environment Assembly 6 and guided the development of the Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work for 2026-2027 and we are confident that we have all together strengthened the spirit of togetherness and made significant strides towards making our planet a better place to live in.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the review of UNEP Programme of Work implementation, we appreciate progress that has been on the implementation of the said work programmes. Our delegation also looks forward to actualization of the proposals made from the meeting on the Drafting of the Roadmap for the Development of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work for 2026-2027.

Mr. Chair,

Zambia will continue to play its role in ensuring strengthened implementation of the activities as agreed by all parties through various decisions and resolutions including those espoused in the UNEP's work programme. We at country level will also continue to align ourselves with the agenda 2030 for sustainable development, its sustainable development goals and with the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions to ensure environmental sustainability.

In this regard, **Mr. Chair,** we have since formulated national plans that prioritises implementation of medium to long term adaptation measures in order to address the adverse impact of climate change and ensure attainment of country's climate resilience.

We are also implementing the land degradation neutrality plan (2015-2030), the national action plan on combating desertification, the investment framework for sustainable land management and the great green wall action plan all aimed at addressing land degradation across the country.

Mr. Chair,

Zambia also wishes to commend UNEP for the Coordination within the UN system on the environment, including through the Environment Management Group. We commend the efforts by UNEP with regards to overall Management and administration. We commend particularly efforts to enhance the equitable geographical representation in its staffing policy, and expresses support for

further measures in this regard. We look forward to increased participation of our nationals. As a country, Zambia will do everything within its means to support UNEP to enable it becomes fit for purpose institution and delivering on its mandates.

Mr. Chair,

Considering the significance of financial resources as a means of implementing UNEPs program of work and medium-term strategy, Zambia wishes to join other delegations in expressing its gratitude to all the contributors and funding partners.

We support the call for the next MTS to retain the three thematic areas of actions that include climate change, biodiversity and pollution control and underscore the need to build on the gains made this far rather than open new areas of work.

Further, we reiterate the call for the consultations with the regional ministerial groups to be at the center of the development of the next MTS as we believe the platforms are the strategic platform to inform the future strategy.

Mr. Chair,

Zambia is of the view that the theme for the UNEA should be anchored on the gains of the past UNEA decisions. UNEA 7 should be themed around emphasizing the need for urgent actions to build resilience considering the impacts of the triple planetary crisis. In addition, the theme should support the final collaborative thrust in the implementation of actions towards achieving the SDGs.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

Zambia stand ready to continue supporting your leadership and wish to assure you of our full cooperation as we engage in the future processes.

I THANK YOU MR CHAIR