

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Boumediene Mahi, Ambassador of
the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
167th meeting of the Committee of Representatives-UNEP
(12th September 2024)**

Mr. Chair,
Ms Director Executive
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Algeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of the G77+China and Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group.

At the outset, Mr. Chair, we extend our sincere gratitude to the UNEP Secretariat for its thorough preparation of this meeting and the related documents.

Allow me now to offer Algeria's remarks on the two key documents under discussion today:

First, regarding the *Report of the Executive Director to the 167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (April – June 2024)*:

- We welcome the report and commend the UNEP team for its diligent work in producing this comprehensive document. We also express our appreciation for the invaluable contribution UNEP continues to make to both regional and global environmental activities.
- While we acknowledge the progress made under the climate stability program, particularly on adaptation, we still be concerned by the insufficient work done on desertification, land degradation, and

drought. In this regard, we reiterate our strong call for UNEP to increase its focus on these critical issues, ensuring they are fully integrated into all relevant activities and reports. We particularly highlight the need for greater emphasis on initiatives such as the Great Green Wall, which is vital for combating desertification.

- Last but not least, Regarding the preliminary report on the environmental impacts of the recent war on Gaza, Algeria fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Arab countries. Algeria strongly condemns the ongoing aggression against the Palestinian civilians, particularly in Gaza, which has resulted in severe environmental devastation. This destruction not only deepens the suffering of the Palestinian people but also worsens the enduring environmental and humanitarian crises in the region. The continued assault on Gaza's infrastructure and ecosystem demands urgent international attention and intervention to mitigate its long-lasting impacts.

Second, regarding the *Draft Roadmap for the Development of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2026-2029*:

- Algeria underscores the need for transparency and inclusiveness in the preparation of this document. We urge that all member states be kept informed at each stage of its development to ensure broad consensus prior to its finalization. In the interest of transparency and pedagogical clarity, we call upon the UNEP Secretariat to share with member states all relevant scientific analyses that form the foundation of the strategy, and to clearly indicate which key insights

from the foresight report are being incorporated. In this regard, we also stress the importance of upholding the principles of the Rio Declaration, particularly the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), while considering the differing capacities, national circumstances, and socioeconomic contexts of developing countries.

- Regarding the revised vision for the MTS, we note with great regret that it focuses solely on the three planetary crises without adequately addressing the pressing environmental challenges of desertification, land degradation, and drought. We reiterate our call for these issues to be given equal consideration in the formulation of the MTS, particularly in programming, project planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Algeria welcomes the vision for enhanced collaboration between UNEP and the secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), which will contribute to a more coordinated approach, reduce duplication, and optimize budgetary resources. We also commend the inclusion of the Sendai Framework in the formulation of the MTS.
- We strongly encourage the establishment of a standing surge capacity pool of expertise, as well as the placement of environmental advisors in Resident Coordinator Offices, to strengthen engagement with United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

- Regarding the use of the term “marginalized people or groups,” we respectfully request that the Secretariat provide a clear definition of this terminology. Specifically, we seek clarity on which categories of people fall under this concept, recognizing that member states may have differing levels of understanding and interpretation of this term.

Finally, Mr. Chair, we commend the Secretariat for the evaluation reports and the Chair’s summary of the 11th annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Algeria stands ready to engage constructively in the discussions on the various agenda items proposed.

Thank you.