

167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
12 September 2024

Japan's Statement on Agenda Item 4

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor.

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

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of Asia-Pacific Group.

We would like to thank Madam ED for this comprehensive quarterly report, which provides us with well-structured, plentiful information on the implementation of UNEP's Programme of work, progress on implementation of resolutions.

We would like to pay tribute to the efforts of the Secretariat and Member States for the vigorous and steady implementation of projects in the areas of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as having a lot of meetings in all the regions.

We would like to make one comment on financial resources. As noted in this report, due to the liquidity challenges in the United Nations regular budget, the 2024 allotment issued is lower than the approved budget, resulting in a concern that a hiring freeze on vacant posts is occurring. We recognise that this issue is an UN-wide problem, not just UNEP. UNEP is also prioritising non-staffing allocations towards fulfilling the mandates of the UNEA and the global environment outlook, but all areas other than UNEA and GEO are also important and we hope that this will not interfere with other work.

From this perspective, we hope that a synergistic approach will be taken within the UNEP Secretariat to streamline operations and increase efficiency. It is also important to work towards utilising all sources of fundraising, including private funding.

As many important meetings including the CBD COP, UNCCD COP, UNFCCC COP and Plastics INC-5 are to be held this year, we hope every member to support UNEP to continue to make steady progress in each of these initiatives.

With this comment, Madam ED, we would like to thank you and your team for providing us with these regular comprehensive updates.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.