



167th CPR Meeting – 12 September 2024

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director to the 167th meeting of the CPR

Statement by Switzerland

Thank you Mr. Chair for giving me the floor

Madame Executive Director,

I would like to commend you and the UNEP Secretariat on the Quarterly Report for the period April – June 2024, which provides a good overview on the developments and updates on the implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget and relevant UNEA resolutions and decisions.

Let me highlight a few points that are of particular importance for Switzerland:

First, the strengthening of environmental governance and of the science-policy interface has long been called for by Switzerland. In that respect, we would like to highlight the OEWG-3, which took place in Geneva in June, aiming at preparing proposals for a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

Second, we welcome the UN Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and look forward to seeing its outputs at the forthcoming UN General Assembly. In the context of the triple planetary crisis, strengthening environmental sustainability of minerals is a critical and priority process – not least to ensure the energy transition, but also to ensure that the production of much needed minerals does not create additional pressure on pollution and biodiversity. Switzerland is fully committed to continue its engagement in this topic.

We would also like to congratulate UNEP for the successful organization of the Bern III conference on cooperation among conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which took place in Bern in January 2024. We consider it to be important that UNEP dedicates sufficient resources to keep the momentum of the Bern Process.

Last, but not least, UNEP needs sufficient funding, including sufficient core funding, to live up to its mandate. While we reiterate our call on all Member States to pay their fair share to the Environment Fund, we would also like to invite UNEP to underpin the Mid-Term Strategy with a realistic but ambitious budget.

Thank you.