

*Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco  
Nairobi*



سفارة المملكة المغربية  
نيروبي

12th September, 2024.

#### **Subcommittee of the CPR**

#### **Statement of Morocco on agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director to the 167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

**Mr Chair,**

At the outset, the Kingdom of Morocco expresses its alignment with the statement made by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group, and by Egypt on behalf of the G77+China.

My delegation would like to thank you Mme ED and your team for the elaboration of the quarterly report (April -June 2024), which is providing an important update on the implementation of the program of work of UNEP, during the considered period. The Kingdom of Morocco appreciates the update on the activities of UNEP that were organised, both at the global and regional levels. In this regard:

- 1- Morocco welcomes the worldwide celebration of the World Environment Day (WED), specifically that this year's celebration has focused on the pressing issues of desertification, land restoration and drought resilience, which, are part of the alarming consequences of the Global warming and climate Change;
- 2- Morocco, as in each year, commemorates through activities nationwide the WED. In June, this year, Morocco organized a significant event led by the Foundation Mohammed VI for the preservation of environment, through the Hassan II International Centre for Environmental Training, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The event brought together world-renowned experts, university researchers, and institutional representatives to address critical challenges related to land restoration, combating desertification, and resilience to drought.
- 3- As AMCEN (the African Ministerial Conference on Environment) had just concluded its special session on desertification, in Abidjan, it is useful, in the view of my delegation, that the outcomes of this session be shared with the CPR through a briefing on the outcomes of this meeting, with the support of the Regional Office.
- 4- Such a briefing will, also help prepare for the 16th session of UNCCD, hosted by Saudi Arabia. The next session of UNCCD will not only provide a retrospective of three decades of efforts against desertification but will aim to identify effective solutions and strong commitments to fight desertification. In this regard, Morocco welcomes the third Arab forum for environment co-organized by UNEP in Riyad last June, which had focussed on land degradation challenges in the Arab region with sub-themes on food and water security, environmental compliance, and terrestrial ecosystems restoration initiatives.

- 5- Morocco also welcomes the interaction of member States of this committee with the co-chairs of the Panel on critical minerals for energy transition, last August. Morocco, hopes that the inputs from this committee, and its member States will be taken into consideration in the report that will be submitted by the Panel to the UNSG, on the general principles that should guide the management of the critical minerals for energy transition.
- 6- Morocco would like to thank the secretariat for the report on the preliminary assessment of the environmental impact of the ongoing conflict in Gaza, which describes the scale of destruction of infrastructure and its impacts on environmental management, waste disposal systems, marine and terrestrial environments, air pollution, among others.
- 7- Morocco understands the difficulty and complexity for UNEP to produce a full-fledged assessment on the environmental impact in Gaza because of the current situation. However, the preliminary assessment report published in December 2023, spoke about planning a Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, that will be undertaken by the UN, World Bank and European Union in Gaza, based on information, data and analysis from these entities and other reliable sources. In this regard, my delegation would like **to ask if the Secretariat can update this Committee on this RDNA, ie, If it has been completed already, now that 10 months have elapsed since the publication of the preliminary assessment, and if yes, will this enable UNEP to prepare for an interim assessment, as specified in the quarterly report?**
- 8- Morocco thanks the Secretariat for keeping Member States informed on the financial status of the Environment Fund, which is still under the approved 2024 budget of 100 million. Meeting this target will certainly help advance the work of UNEP on the ground;
- 9- In this regard, I would like to reiterate Morocco's commitment to continue its full share contribution, and seize this opportunity to inform that Morocco's full share contribution for 2024 is already on its way to the Fund. Morocco encourages the secretariat to continue engaging bilaterally with Member States, to have the percentage of the full share contributing countries (57%) grow more to attain 100%. In this regard, it would be, maybe more encouraging, for member States to better understand the dividends of their financial contributions in terms of projects being implemented on the ground, at the national level. This could be rewarding if UNEP adopts a more sensitizing proactive approach with Member States that goes beyond the booklet of Secretariat, to encourage them to contribute to the Fund. This is in our view also linked with the need of a better coordination with the UN Country Residents and the UN Country teams in general, to serve a double objective: the scaling up of contributions from Member States, according to their full share, and ensuring that Member States priorities are responded to.

**I thank you**