

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Thailand  
on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the  
United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, on June 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
2014.**

Mr. President,

I take the floor on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The G77 and China wish to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your elections. The Group of 77 and China trust that, with your experience and expertise, you will steer this first and historic United Nations Environment Assembly to a successful conclusion. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Director for his policy statement, and the UNEP Secretariat for preparation of this first UNEA. Our Group pledges full commitment in collaborating with you and the Secretariat, and with other Member States delegations, in order to make this meeting a success.

Mr. President,

The first session of UNEA certainly represents a watershed meeting in the history of international negotiations on environmental dimension of sustainable development. This first UNEA also coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Group of 77 and China, both of which provide the Group with added opportunity to reflect its commitment to environment in the broader context of sustainable development and post-2015 development agenda. In fact, the Declaration adopted at G77 and China Summit held in Bolivia just about a week ago reflects the Group's steadfast commitment to environment and to the need to make concrete progress towards achievement of an inclusive economic and social development in harmony with nature. The declaration recognizes the need for strengthening different visions, approaches, and models to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and also recognizes the interlinkages between

environment and sustainable development. The Group, therefore, looks forward to reflecting and elaborating the perspective of developing countries on such interlinkages and on how environmental concerns play an important role in achieving sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The G77 and China is pleased that this session of UNEA will provide our Ministers with an opportunity to exchange views and experiences which may contribute to the domestic decision-making processes of defining our positions for the upcoming negotiation for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda which shall guide, inter alia, development cooperation under the auspices of the UN system for the better part of the next couple of decades. Our delegations in New York will certainly benefit from informed briefings on the environmental dimension of sustainable development which will enable them to better participate in the drafting of sustainable development goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In one domain, in particular, UNEP's unequivocal leadership and experience may prove of utmost relevance, that of sustainable consumption and production. If the Post-2015 Development Agenda will carry over from the mandates included in Agenda 21, as well as Rio principles particularly the principle of the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), it must undertake to promote a change from unsustainable lifestyles, which remains among standing objectives not fully accomplished since our pivotal conference in Rio, in 1992. At Rio, in 2012, one of the two main outcomes, together with the document "The Future We Want", was the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. UNEP, which was given the function of its secretariat, has the important responsibility of supporting the successful implementation of this initiative, which may prove to be one of the instruments for helping to achieve several of the goals to be defined in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, we also recognize the importance of means of implementation which is indispensable for achieving the

realization of sustainable development, especially among developing countries.

UNEP will also be instrumental for the advancement of an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes. The G77 and China recognizes the important contribution of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to enable all relevant stakeholders to ensure sound management of chemicals and wastes. We welcome the establishment, by this first session of UNEA, of a Special Programme, to be funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. This will represent a milestone in the implementation of international commitments in this domain.

The intense negotiations which we will undertake in the next few days shall define the course for UNEP in the years to come. The G77 and China supports the proposed budget for the biennium 2016-2017, as it has been drafted by the secretariat and reviewed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. We would like to express our support to the budget proposal by the Executive Director, which amounts to 285 million dollars of voluntary contributions to finance UNEP's activities for that period. We call on all Member States to consider contributing to the Environment Fund and to make other kind of voluntary contributions to allow UNEP to achieve the goals defined in its programme of work. It may be useful, in that regard, to make use of an indicative table of expected contributions in order to guide our Governments in devising the burden share which each of the Member States should consider bearing. We also believe that trust funds and other ear-marked contributions should be accounted for in the context of the budget and programme of work, so that activities supported by these provisions are in line with the overall strategic objectives of UNEP.

Mr. President,

I conclude with a word of optimism. May this first session represent the best possible antecedent for future meetings of the governing body of the UNEP. May it also be an enriching experience to us, as delegates, but also to the stakeholders who are sharing with us this opportunity of building together the new institutional framework which will further strengthen UNEP and the United Nations as the venue for international cooperation and understanding, enabling Governments, stakeholders or organized communities and international organizations such as UNEP and its partners to achieve sustainable development.

Thank you.