

Statement by H.E. Soehardjono Sastromihardjo
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of Kenya
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the
UNEP and UN-Habitat

Mr. President,

Allow me, first and foremost, to congratulate you as new President of Bureau of the UNEA session-2. I believe that under your able leadership, you will successfully guide this session to its conclusion.

I would like to align my statement with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Indonesia views UNEA as the pertinent forum to address the global environmental affairs. Let me recall that during our deliberation on the preparation of the UNEA-2, wide-ranging issues related to the environments came to our attention, such as chemicals and waste, marine plastic debris and microplastics, sustainable coral reefs management, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife product, as well as UNEP medium-term strategy 2018-2021 as the important document to implement.

This year, we are stepping into a new era as last year our leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and environment has been one of the three dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that gives us confidence that our works here are highly important.

We need to link our works and to synergize them to the implementation of SDGs, especially to the related goals of the environmental issues. Data and facts from many sources indicate that there is a close and clear linkage between environmental degradation, polluted air, soil and water that impact the human health. We need to have a concrete action to deliberate and link it with the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We do believe that effectiveness in tackling environment issues cannot be separated from a number of important factors, such as strong support and commitment from political leaders, multilayer partnership and collaboration, good governance, a right approach through promoting science-based policy, and availability of sound technology as well as mobilized resources. Thus, we have to ensure that all of these elements and Sustainable Development Goals are included as guidance for our common efforts.

We have this expectation that the outcome of the high-level segment of UNEA-2 will become concrete efforts and can be realized to fulfill our commitment on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals that relate to the environmental matters.

Mr. President,

With regard to the UNEA Cycle, Indonesia is of the view that thorough analysis must be conducted in order to make it in line with the UN bi-annual budget. And, it is imperative that UNEA-3 must optimize the existing regular budget.

Related to the ocean and biodiversity issues, Indonesia has submitted its proposal on the sustainable coral reefs management. Coral reefs plays a significant role in social, economic and environmental aspect for millions of people who are living in coastal areas. Despite its importance, coral reefs is facing numerous serious threats, both locally and globally.

Through this resolution, we wish that sustainable management of coral reefs would give significant contribution to the conservation of the marine biodiversity and as the way to achieve Goal 14 of SDGs. In this regard, we wish that UNEA-2 would support our draft resolution. We thank the Governments of Norway, Palau, Australia, the Philippines, Monaco, and Maldives for their co-sponsorship.

Finally, I would like to invite all member countries to participate in the side event organized by the Government of Indonesia in collaboration with the UNEP Secretariat. The Sustainable Coral Reefs Management event will be on Tuesday, 24 of May 2016 in Conference Room-11 from 13.00 to 14.30. We believe that this side event can provide a better insight on the current global condition of the coral reefs and the way forward to conserve and sustainably use the ecosystem.

I thank you Mr. President.