

Statement by Mr. Zerubabel Tefera, FDR Ethiopia's Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP, UN-HABITAT, and UNON at the 142nd Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Program
on
Agenda No. 7 (Preparation for the 4th Session of the UN Environment Assembly
10TH MAY 2018

Mr. Chairperson,

1. First, I would like to associate myself with the statement presented by Eritrea on behalf of the African Group.
2. At the outset of the concept paper the draft implies that UNEA 4 theme in its current form is related to Goal 12. This statement is incomplete. Ethiopia strongly believes that innovative solutions are crosscutting variables across almost all SDGs. The need to follow an integrated approach to the implementation of SDGs makes Innovative Solutions relevant. This is why Agenda 2030 recognizes innovation as one of the major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. Agenda 2030 calls upon all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges. The global community identifies development oriented policies that support innovation as one of the vehicles through which higher levels of economic productivity may be attained (SDG8).
3. Innovative solutions on integrating ecosystem-based adaptation contributes to climate adaptation (SDG13 and 15) and will also boost food security thereby contributing to Goal 1, 2, 3. Innovations in energy, for instance adopting clean energy (SDG 7) will contribute to reduction emissions and help respond to Sustainable Development Goal 13, and also catalyse economic growth and

employment (Sustainable Development Goal 8) by enhancing green and inclusive jobs.

4. In addition, we underscore that the draft paper of the Secretariat appears to be skewed in approach. Much as it is important to build on previous outcomes of the Assembly, the focus of the fourth assembly is on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production. Therefore, references to parts of the previous Assembly ministerial declarations and resolutions is segregative, limiting and restrictive.
5. We should not focus the Assembly on cultural change within the secretariat so as to have innovative solutions as the concept suggests. We should focus on supporting countries to develop and uptake innovative solutions.
6. Countries cannot and should not be limited to implementation and financing of the 10 Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Implementation of the outcomes of UNEA 4 should encompass all areas of innovative solutions. UNEP is already implementing innovative solutions in very many areas beyond SCP. These various areas should be highlighted as well.
7. Mr. Chair, Ethiopia, as it has always been, is ready to consult with other Member States and will submit its written contribution for UNEA 4 Theme.

Thank you