



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
UNEP**

**ON THE 143RD MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME (UNEP)**

28 SEPTEMBER 2018

NAIROBI

Madame Chair,

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Ethiopia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Let me congratulate Ms Joyce Msuya, the new Deputy Executive Director, on her appointment and I wish to assure her of all my support.

Madame Chair,

My delegation takes note of the report by the Executive Director. Furthermore, we have taken note of the leaked media reports on the audit by the UN. We will await with interest the final report in this regard.

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Madame Chair,

My delegation appreciates the implementation of the Johannesburg Action Plan adopted at the FOCAC Summit in 2015. In particular, with reference to the decision to establish the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre. We welcome the launch of the Interim Secretariat on the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre in this regard. We call for inclusiveness, transparency and consultation going forward. Furthermore, the involvement of the African Union would take us forward in this regard.

Finally, Madame Chair,

My Government and the people of South Africa welcome with humble appreciation the words of condolences from all of you and around the globe on the passing of Minister Edna Molewa of Environmental Affairs. Minister Molewa was an environmental agent and her contribution to the Continent and the world will forever be remembered. We also thank the Government of France for awarding her in recognition of her great work.

I thank you!