



**STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA DELIVERED BY  
MS AMANDA MKHWANAZI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**AT THE  
143<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**08 JANUARY 2019**

**NAIROBI**

*Check against delivery*

Madam chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Eritrea on behalf of the African Group.

We wish to thank the Acting Executive Director for her report on the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the last quarter, as well as an update on the implementation of the recommendations on the Audit report on the official travel at UNEP.

Madam Chair,

My delegation has taken note of the Executive Director's Mission to South Africa. Indeed, my Government remains committed in minimising plastic pollution and intend to introduce a ban on single use plastics and other related products. Last year we conducted a Plastic Material Study in collaboration with the industry, the South African Bureau of Standards, the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications, the National Treasury and the Department of Health. Furthermore, we are consulting with the cosmetics industry to phase out the use of micro beads in cosmetics.

Madam Chair,

The Government of South Africa welcomes country programmes approved through Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Environmental Goals 2018-2022. My delegation would like to ask the Executive Director, what role that can be played by UNEP including, through its regional and/or country offices, in contributing to reducing poverty of education and information in order for ordinary people to be aware of the most sustainable ways of accessing the environment and its natural

resources. It would be abnormal to advance pro-poor and pro-environment objectives while poverty of education and information prevails.

Finally Madam chair,

The environmental sector continues to be a source and facilitator of investment, job creation, entrepreneurship and skills development. In advancing its commitment to the development path that result into improved wellbeing and social equality while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities; my Government will be hosting the 2019 Ministerial Conference on Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) on 10 – 11 January 2019 in Cape Town; under the theme “Advancing inclusive and sustainable economies”. We look forward to fruitful discussions as well as an outcome that will lead to actions towards a future where human and environmental health is protected, and poverty alleviated. It is further hoped that the outcomes of this conference will contribute to discussions at UNEA4.

I thank you!