

## 146<sup>TH</sup> COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

### Statement by the Deputy Executive Director

20 JUNE 2019 | TIME: 10:00 AM | VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM 1

Thank you Inger for your welcoming remarks.

I very much look forward to working with you in taking to new heights, the important mandate we have for member states, people and planet.

Welcome to the UN Environment Programme. Welcome to Nairobi. KARIBU SANA NAIROBI!

*Excellencies and colleagues,*

We have just concluded a wonderfully successful **World Environment Day on June 5**. Focused on beating air pollution, our campaign galvanized action around the world. A record number of events and commitments united communities against the global health risk that affects us all, irrespective of our age, where we live, or nationality. Our content was seen 1.4 billion times online. More than 2800 events registered on our site alone were an affirmation of the truly global nature of this important issue– my congratulations to you Member States for engaging with us and our staff for the hard work on this.

My thanks to the Government of China for leading the global celebrations this year and drawing attention to the science, political will, investments and citizen awareness, that have together come together to scripted some of your country’s great successes in this area.

The busy first quarter of the year culminated in the **success of the fourth UN Environment Assembly**. Held as we all dealt with the tragic events of the crash of Ethiopian Airlines flight, Member States were both bold and optimistic in elevating our ambition for and actions towards protecting the planet and promoting sustainable development. We thank you for your leadership. In a **recent interview to TIME magazine**, the UN Secretary-General noted that climate change offers an opportunity for multilateralism to prove its value. And I believe this is exactly what we achieved at the largest-ever Assembly that included almost 70% of the worlds’ ministers of environment.

We look forward to working with you to translate the ambitious vision you laid out into concrete actions and results.

As you know, **this year we released several important pieces of science including the Global Environment Outlook, the Global Resources Outlook and the Global Chemicals Outlook**. But I wish to draw your attention to another very important analysis that we released in **January on the environmental rule of law** which draws attention to the urgent need to focus attention on enforcing environmental laws. This is critical to addressing the challenges outlined by these reports, from climate change and habitat loss, to reducing pollution.

This challenge is echoed by the third and final substantive session of the Global Pact. The working group agreed to 13 substantive recommendations to the General Assembly including a renewed focus on enhancing obligations under international environmental law; inviting Multilateral Environmental Agreements to enhance cooperation and collaboration; and





I look forward to building this partnership with staff and the management team to take our agenda for the planet forward. ASANTENI SANA/THANK YOU!