

STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN GROUP ON UNEP@50 FOR THE CPR SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14.7.2020

- With regard to the implementation of paragraph 8 of UNEA decision 4/2, which gives the Executive Director the mandate to prepare, in consultation with Member States, the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Group thanks the Secretariat for the background note circulated and also commend the Executive Director and her team for continued engagement with regional and political groups on the implementation.
- The African Group supports the kick-off of the commemoration during UNEA 5 in February 2021 and climax in Nairobi, UNEP Headquarters and calls for further discussions to decide on its culmination. The convening of a special UNEA session in 2022 to this end would be an adequate option in this regard.
- The group proposes to have the commemorative event during the High Level opening of UNEA 5 where High-Level Delegation will be present. This could be done as an afternoon session after the opening on the same day;
- On possible engagements and outreach activities following the launch of UNEP@50, the African Group sees the need to ensure that such activities, especially those happening alongside other meetings are visible to make them impactful and successful so that the process is not overshadowed by other events. Such events should aim at enhancing civil society engagement by involving women, youth, major groups and other key stakeholders in Africa. We welcome further consultations with Member States to determine the next steps.
- The group sees the need to focus on more substantive issues around UNEP@50, mainly to do with how Global and regional interests/vision will be addressed in the process and outcome by implementing para 88 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in its entirety. In this context, the African

Group will come back with its input and position on the substantive implementation of para 88 in due course.

- While discussions on this matter will further be elaborated, the African Group wishes to guard against the approach of selecting some of the elements on para 88 (cherry picking) in the discussions of the commemoration. In this regard, elements that include discussion in the issues of financing the HQ and strengthening its functions are equally important. It is therefore hoped that the guiding agenda on the commemoration would ensure that all discussions towards strengthening the future work of UNEP will be brought to the fore.
- The African Group however supports proposals for a science-policy input as presented by the secretariat, and calls for Africa's inclusion in the process and strengthening Africa's participation in the process.
- The group continues to stresses the importance of Strengthening UNEP as the only UN headquarters in the Global South and in Africa by having both the preparations and the main commemorative event in Nairobi.
- The group emphasizes the importance of considering principles of importance for Africa such as means of implementation and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Thank you.