

G77 AND CHINA STATEMENT AT THE 153RD MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (CPR) OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2021

Comment related to the preparations for the virtual Fifth Session of Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters

At the outset allow me Chair to thank the Secretariat for all the preparations done for the 153rd CPR Meeting, including the documentation shared.

Our first comment relates to the preparations for the virtual Fifth Session of Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Group is supportive of the current arrangements regarding the meeting and commends the efforts made by the CPR Chair, his Bureau and the Secretariat to organize this meeting in spite of the logistical challenges posed by the pandemic. We are also interested to learn if, at this moment, the Secretariat can anticipate how they would see the organization of resumed OECPR taking shape.

While I still have the floor Chair, and since I believe these items to be connected, let me now comment on the item draft decisions on administrative and budgetary matters for the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021, which have been circulated by the Secretariat as document UNEP CPR/153/4. We recall that our Group does not expect a line-by-line negotiation on these draft decisions during today's meeting. This is only expected to happen at the OECPR, and we reiterate our understanding that online consultations have only been deemed acceptable for these urgent administrative and budgetary matters. While we appreciate and thank the Secretariat for the work done in updating the draft decisions, we also take this opportunity to reiterate that the negotiation of these outcomes must remain member state driven process, and we appreciate the efforts undertaken by the CPR Bureau in this regard.

I thank you chair.

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Comment on preparations for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP

Let me thank you again Chair for this opportunity to contribute on the item on preparations for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UNEP. Let me start by thanking the Secretariat for producing a new and improved version of the Strategic Plan for the commemoration of UNEP @50 following comments done at the Subcommittee meeting of 10 December 2020. This version, though dated 12 January but actually shared on 19th January 2021 appears in a general sense to provide more information. However more clarity and focused information will be required.

As previously stated, while the Group does not object to the notion of the launch of the commemoration at the virtual segment of UNEA 5, but such an agreement requires further understanding as to why the commemoration arrangements are being scheduled over before the actual 50th anniversary itself in June 2022. Furthermore, as also previously stated, the Group stresses that the Secretariat should only make reference to processes that have been properly mandated. As such the group reiterates is earlier position that at the moment we must focus on celebrations of UNEP @50, which has a clear mandate from UNEA 4/2, while of course awaiting mandate for Stockholm +50.

The Group has taken special note of the proposal regarding format of culmination of UNEP @50 between having during the resumed session of UNEA 5 an agenda item entitled ‘Commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme in 1972’ or a Special Session held back-to-back with the resumed session of UNEA 5. The Group further takes note of the budgetary implications of either alternative. We believe that such a decision requires an open, participatory and transparent process, which at the end of the day ensures that the commemoration of UNEP @50 should ultimately be seen and have an outcome which strengthens the role

of UNEP, the centrality of the CPR and further consolidates Nairobi's headquarter functions in environmental issues.

I thank you Chair.