

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**

**Interventions during 154<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent  
Representatives**

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**Agenda 3: Report by the Executive Director**

*Thank you Mr. Chair,*

*Firstly, let me take this opportunity to welcome our Executive Director, Madam Inger Andersen back to Nairobi. My delegation appreciates the Secretariat and specifically the Executive Director for the report and the statement providing an update on key developments relevant to the UN Environment Programme for the period January - March 2020.*

*Secondly, my delegation wish to recognize the role played by the Secretariat towards organizing the successful first virtual UNEA session that took place from 22 to 23 February 2021. During the online session, we welcomed the kick-start of UNEP@50 anniversary commemoration event by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. In addition, Kenya and UNEP co-hosted a side event on 'Building a global vision to tackle plastic pollution - Riding the Wave to Impact'. Other accomplishments during the period included:*

- Launch of the Adaptation Gap Report 2020 ahead of the Climate Adaptation Summit;*
- Launch of the "Making Peace with Nature: a scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies";*
- Launch of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) on the margins of the UN Environment Assembly in which 39 countries have already joined the Global Alliance, which will support the transition to a global circular economy for more efficient and equitable use of resources;*
- The coming into effect of the Basel Convention's Plastic Waste Amendments on 1 January 2021. Particularly, we laud this noting that Kenya was among the pioneer member states in the global war on single-use plastics when it outlawed the manufacturing, sale and distribution of plastic carrier bags in 2017; and*
- Launch of the "Global Recovery Observatory" and the report, "Are We Building Back Better?,".*

*Mr. Chair,*

*We further note that Covid-19 like in so many other institutions continued to impact UNEP'S project implementation activities, but nonetheless, my delegation encourages the secretariat to explore all the alternatives for continued operation to deliver on its mandate during this difficult covid-19 period. Further, carry on in the UNEP'S Covid-19 response building blocks to alleviate the adverse effects brought about by the pandemic. We consider that effective implementation of planned activities in the Medium Term Strategies (MTS) towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would go a long way to achieving the same.*

*In conclusion, we urge UNEP to assess all possible ways to obtain knowledge and guidance to assist in analyzing and evaluation of environmental projects from a poverty perspective so that UNEP's projects are identified and linked to address certain targeted poverty dimensions.*

*We wish all our colleagues who are departing upon the end of their tours of duty the very best.*

*Kenya stands ready to work with all delegations and institutions to end the pandemic.*

*I thank you*

#### **Agenda 4: Consideration of the cycle of term of office of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

*Thank you Mr. Chair,*

*My delegation aligns itself with the African Group and the G77 and China position on the extension of term of office of the current CPR bureau until the conclusion of UNEA 5.2 in line with extension of the UNEA bureau. We particularly wish to sincerely thank Amb. Fernando Coimbra for his leadership and wish him well. Colleagues, as a consequence of the Covid-9 pandemic, UNEA-5 Bureau term was extended until the end of UNEA-5.2 in 2022; similarly, the term of office of the CPR Bureau should be extended. Kenya also asserts that Africa should serve a full term of two (2) years during its UNEA-6 Presidency term. During this period, Africa will leverage on its presidency to represent, pronounce and defend member states' priorities and interests. In line with the group's position, my delegation would also appreciate information/guidance from the Secretariat on how, in line with the Rules of Procedure, the African Presidency for UNEA-6 can enjoy its full two year term.*

*My delegation underscores the importance of concluding this matter towards a consensus notwithstanding the current divergent viewpoints to enable us prepare*

*for successful UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 in 2022. Accordingly, Kenya wishes to see all member states taking ownership of UNEP@50.*

*We reiterate the group's position that the UNEP CPR Bureau, under the current configuration, would be best placed to finalize UNEA-5.2. This is a principled policy stand that should not in any way be interpreted as undermining the role and/or targeting any or a specific regional group.*

*We join others in thanking Amb. Julia Pataki, the outgoing Romanian Ambassador and wish her well.*

*I thank you*

**Agenda 6: Assessment and lessons learned from the online session of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly**

*Thank you Mr. Chair,*

*My delegation takes this opportunity to recognize the persistence of the President of UNEA, H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn and the able leadership of the Chair of Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Amb. H.E. Mr. Fernando Coimbra in organizing for the first online UNEA session. We also commend the UNEP Secretariat and all other stakeholders towards a successful UNEA-5 against all odds occasioned by Covid-19 pandemic. Among the key lessons learnt during the 5<sup>th</sup> online session of UNEA 5.1 include:*

- a) The digital divide is real in that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communication technologies;*
- b) Appreciation of the huge impact that online meetings can have in terms of participation, inclusivity, transparency, effectiveness and multilingualism;*
- c) The fact that nature's health and human health are intimately interrelated;*
- d) The United Nations Environment Programme has a fundamental role to play in global environmental governance; and*
- e) Multilateralism has never been more important, realizing that environmental crises knows no borders – and it cannot and could not wait since and during the Covid-19 pandemic.*

*I thank you*