

**STATEMENT AT THE OPENING OF OECPR 5.2 ON 21- 25 FEBRUARY,  
2022 DELIVERED BY PR, KENYA MISSION TO UNEP**

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*Madam Chair, ED Inger, Ag DED Sonja and Secretariat,  
Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen;*

1. At the onset, let me begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to all of us for the resilience and the fight we have put up in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this period, we have witnessed a regression of the gains made towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We however should recognize the efforts that have been made despite the challenges, and the continuing work of UNEP to deliver in its mandate working hand in hand with Member States.
2. As we congregate to prepare for the second part of UNEA 5.2 that will culminate in the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the creation of UNEP, it is my honor to welcome all of you to Nairobi for that auspicious occasion. This is a hallmark celebration bringing together leaders from all over the world and it will be a moment to show what has been achieved in that time, the challenges experienced with the lessons learnt, and the vision for the future.

Madam Chair,

3. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Colombia on behalf of the G77+ China. We reiterate the call to have a session that will be impactful, with a political declaration encompassing the inputs by all Member States. We commit ourselves to this end having in mind the great importance of working together to tackle the three environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
4. Kenya, being a co- sponsor of the resolution on Plastic Pollution reiterates the need for a formulation of a global legally binding agreement that also calls for circularity in the lifecycle of all plastics. We must recognize the transboundary nature of this problem and this is an opportune time to make history in dealing with it.

Madam Chair,

5. Distinguished delegates, as I conclude, may I resound the call to strengthen UNEP in Nairobi as the leading global authority on

environment. Coming together in this endeavor will see the MEAs back here and the ultimate increment in the output and workability of UNEP. I implore all of you to join us to make this a reality.

6. We look forward to a successful and impactful commemoration of UNEP@50 next week. Our delegation is working closely with the co-facilitators, Algeria the African Bureau member and all other delegations to come up with a strong political declaration. Kenya is working closely with Secretariat to ensure your stay is as smooth as possible despite the pandemic.

7. I thank you.