

**U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Nairobi Jennifer Harwood's
Delivery of the U.S. Opening Statement at the 11th Annual Subcommittee of the
Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
in Nairobi, Kenya
July 8, 2024**

- Thank you for the floor, Excellency Chair. Madam Executive Director Andersen, excellencies, and distinguished colleagues, the United States welcomes the opportunity to take part in the 11th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP – an important annual check-in and exchange of views on UNEP's implementation of its program of work and budget. I would like to thank the entire UNEP team for the dedication and work that went into preparing for this meeting.
- The United States remains committed to engaging with this distinguished body to address shared environmental challenges. Of course, UNEP's work relies on our collective financial contributions to the Environment Fund. We commend the 80 member states that contributed to the Environment Fund in 2023, and encourage all member states to equip UNEP with the resources it requires to fulfill the mandates we have collectively bestowed upon it.
- The United States also welcomes UNEP's reported progress increasing gender and geographical diversity, in line with Article 101 of the UN Charter and UNEA Resolution 5/13, while recalling that Article 101 says that the paramount consideration for selecting candidates should be based on "the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity." At future meetings, we look forward to learning how UNEP plans to implement the new UN Secretariat Strategy on Protection from Violence and Discrimination of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Persons.
- This week, our deliberations are enhanced by a strong voice for civil society, and we welcome civil society representatives taking part in the Annual Subcommittee. The United States is a staunch proponent of civil society engagement, as these groups bring on-the-ground perspectives that are invaluable for policy-making and ensure that our policies resonate with those we serve.
- Looking ahead, we would also like to take a moment to recognize the important work across the UN system this year and upcoming events to which the UN Environment Assembly has provided important inputs, such as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and, especially, the Summit of the

Future. The outcomes of these meetings, which have been shaped by the Assembly's inputs, could have significant implications for the broader UN agenda on the environment, and it is vital that they inform and shape UNEP's work and strategic direction.

- The United States is committed to the successful implementation of the air quality resolution adopted at UNEA-6 and recognizes the significant work underway. We look forward to the launch of the global online platform on the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, which will allow air quality partners and member states to better share information to address air pollution and its detrimental effects on health and ecosystems. We are also eagerly awaiting more details on UNEP's formation of the global cooperation network called for in UNEA resolution 6/10.