



**Draft statement by H. E. Mr. Boumediene Mahi, Ambassador of the
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
11th Subcommittee annual meeting of the Committee of Representatives-
UNEP (8-12 July 2024)**

Excellency Ambassador Firas Khouri, Chair of the CRP,

Madame Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP,

Excellencies,

Algeria aligns itself with the statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of the G77+China, and Somalia on behalf of the Africa Group.

Firstly, Mr. Chair, allow me to express gratitude to Madame Executive Director and the Secretariat of UNEP for their excellent preparation of this meeting. I also commend you, Mr. Chair, for your constructive facilitation of our committee's work.

I would like to highlight several points of interest to Algeria regarding the proposed agenda items.

Regarding Agenda Item 3 (a-b-e), we appreciate the efforts in developing the Program of Work and Budget Report 2022-2023, and commend UNEP's initiatives to strengthen environmental governance globally. However, we note a deficiency in activities addressing

desertification, a significant challenge for many African countries, including Algeria. Desertification exacerbates water scarcity, food insecurity, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and other environmental issues crucial to achieving multiple SDGs.

It is imperative to underscore UNEP's mandate in promoting coherent implementation of the environmental dimension across all relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This necessitates

incorporating activities in the Program of Work that encompass all SDGs equally, including SDG 15, particularly its target to combat desertification and restore degraded lands by 2030.

Algeria recommends a comprehensive approach that avoids selective methods in SDG implementation.

Furthermore, the report overlooks a critical environmental challenge affecting both developed and developing nations: wildfire management (pre and post crises). Annually, wildfires devastate forests and ecosystems, undermining global climate ambitions by depleting carbon sinks. Therefore, Algeria proposes including wildfire management activities in future UNEP work programs.

Concerning UNEP's management and administration, Algeria appreciates efforts towards gender balance and urges similar attention to geographical representation.

Mr. Chair, Algeria advocates enhancing the role of regional ministerial fora within UNEP's Medium-term Strategy and Program of Work, while respecting the mandates of regional organizations tackling similar issues. In this context, We recall the UNEA-6 resolution on enhancing regional forums' roles in promoting multilateral environmental cooperation.

On Agenda Item 4, Algeria supports the views expressed by Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China.

Regarding Agenda Item 5 (a, b), Algeria acknowledges UNEP's vision in the Medium-term Strategy and urges inclusion of activities addressing desertification and wildfire management in future strategic plans.

In selecting the theme for the seventh session of UNEA, Algeria emphasizes the importance of identifying themes that reflect global challenges comprehensively. We urge the Secretariat to propose inclusive and pertinent themes through a transparent and consensual process.

Algeria strongly believes that addressing global environmental challenges, achieving MEAs objectives, and enhancing international cooperation require adherence to the Rio Principles, particularly common but differentiated responsibilities, respective capabilities, and national circumstances.

In conclusion, our delegation stands ready to engage in discussions on all proposed agenda items.

Thank you.