

Statement by H.E. Mr. Hazem Shabat, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Republic of Kenya, and Permanent Representative to UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNON, Chairperson of the Group of 77 and China, Nairobi Chapter, at the Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNON, Nairobi, 10 September 2020)

General comments on the “Converging elements of consensus for the Process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives” and its Annex.

At the outset, allow me to commend you, co-facilitators, for your efforts so far in the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and for preparing the converging elements of consensus document.

The Group of 77 and China followed carefully the rationale put forward on the issue of changing the names of the subsidiary bodies namely: The Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) and the Annual Subcommittee of the CPR, and strongly believes that such change is unnecessary and could affect the balance intended for the different meetings of the CPR. We believe that attention should be directed towards further harmonizing the coordination between UNEA and its subsidiary bodies. Therefore, the Group stresses that renaming of the existing meetings does not add value nor increase the efficiency and the effectiveness of UNEA and its subsidiary bodies.

The Group strongly supports collapsing the agreed upon elements of Annex 1 within the main document in order to have only one document as the outcome of this process, one which incorporates the established practices and avoids reinterpreting the rules of procedures.

The Group strongly believes that the timeframes presented in paragraph (16) of the converging elements of consensus are not realistic nor achievable and may restrict the ability of member states

to table resolutions. The Group suggests that the announcement of the intention to table a draft resolution be altered to 8 weeks in advance of the environment Assembly and the submission of the draft resolution be altered to 6 weeks in advance of the Environment Assembly. The Group also believes that there should be more focus on better using the intersessional period for the preparations of the draft resolutions and to contribute to the work of UNEA more generally.

Thank you, Co-facilitators