

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 7th Annual Sub-committee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi, 12-16 October 2020)

Agenda Item 4: Consideration of a draft UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025 and Programme of Work 2022-2023

The Group reiterates that the process of consultation on the UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025 and Programme of Work 2022-2023 should take into consideration the needs of developing countries under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Rio+20 Outcome Document, as well as contribute to the eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. In addition, the Group strongly believes that the MTS should, in addition to the current Work Programme, integrate emerging environmental issues including the response to the pandemic of Covid 19, health and environment nexus and environmental degradation.

The Group welcomes the Executive Director's opining remarks made yesterday on the issue of her recognition of the importance of respecting the mandate and the scope of work of the various Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), and we encourage avoiding duplication of work, as well as enhancing closer cooperation with MEAs in implementing the MTS. The Group reiterates that these remarks should be clearly reflected on the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025. The Group also stresses that the MTS should not imply any obligations on Members States such as reporting, without a negotiated resolution and decision from UNEA.

The Group underlines that the MTS under the foundational sub-programme of Science-policy should rely exclusively on material and data from credible official resources.

On page 26 of the draft UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025 and Programme of Work 2022-2023 under the Chemical and Pollution Action, the Group proposes to delete the fourth bullet of the 2025 target in relation to a global mapping of contaminated sites including mine tailing, sludge deposits, landfills and waste dumps. The Group believes that it is not within the mandate of UNEP, and should also involve the national governments cooperation for reporting.

Agenda item 5 (ii): Action plan for the implementation of subparagraphs (a)-(h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Group underscores the importance of the process for the implementation of paragraph 88 in its entirety, in which we should not spare efforts to achieve the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Developments.

The Group stresses on the importance of achieving fair and equitable regional balance in the recruitment at the secretariat of UNEP at all levels, as well as distribution between countries, in a way that contribute in reflecting the universality of UNEP, as well as the efforts of achieving paragraph 88. The Group underlines that many reports submitted to the CPR, indicates one regional group hold 50 percent of the positions in the secretariate up to the senior levels.

The Group also emphasis on the need to include scientists and universities from developing countries in the science based programmes to enrich and substantiate the work done by UNEP, specially that scientists and universities from developing countries are able to produce significantly important science that should be taken into consideration. Therefore, these measures are crucial in

emphasizing the centrality of UNEP in the debate on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Group also request more details from UNEP in relation to the kind of investment made in capacity building and support devoted to developing countries.

Agenda item 5 (iii) preparations for UNEA5 (Format and Structure of UNEA5)

The Group of 77 and China has followed carefully the proposal of UNEA presidency, and taking into consideration the recommendation of the Bureau of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly held on 8th of October 2020, we strongly believe that February 2021 session should exclusively consider Programme of Work and Budget matters.

The Group also believes that any substantive matters including Ministerial Declaration should be tackled in an in-person when UNEA5 is resumed at a later stage in February 2022.

I, thank you, Chair