

**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 151<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNON, Nairobi, 14 September 2020)**

At the outset, allow me to thank the Executive Director and the Secretariat for preparing the working documents including the quarterly report to the 151<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives for the period April-June 2020.

The Group of 77 and China recognizes UNEP's swift response to the challenges posed by Covid 19, and maintaining good progress in the implementation of the Programme of Work.

On the matter of the Medium- Term Strategy 2021-2025, the Group emphasizes that the process of consultation 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 emphasizes that the Programme of Work under the three thematic sub-programmes of Climate Action, Nature Action, and Chemical and Pollution Action should respect the mandate and the scope of work of the various Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs),

and avoiding duplication of work, while enhancing closer cooperation with MEAs in implementing the MTS. The Group also underlines that the MTS under the foundational sub-programme of Science-policy should rely exclusively on material and data from credible official resources.

I thank you, Chairman