



THE GROUP OF 77

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**Statement by the Group of 77 and China at Nairobi
for the Open-ended Meeting and the 126th Meeting of the Committee of
Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme
(UNON, Nairobi, 24 March 2014)**

Mr. Chairman,

Executive Director of UNEP,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, which now has 133 countries as members.

I wish to begin by extending the congratulations of the G77 and China on your election as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, and pledge to you all our possible efforts in assisting you with the fulfilment of your high responsibilities.

I wish to also thank Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP for, as always, the comprehensive report on the work undertaken by UNEP during the period November 2013 to February 2014. The Group of 77 and China would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his re-appointment for an extended-two year term as the Executive Director of UNEP. We very much appreciate his contribution to the work of UNEP and to the deliberations of CPR to UNEP, and hope that this extended mandate would allow him to add further value to those initiatives and projects that have been developed under his guidance and leadership.

As developing countries, we are committed to addressing the global environmental challenges of our time in a manner consistent with our objective of sustainable development.

In this endeavour, while the work of a strengthened UNEP is extremely important, a stronger Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP will undoubtedly contribute to a strengthened UNEP. This week the CPR to UNEP enjoys for the first time a wonderful opportunity to capitalize from the wisdom and ideas offered by enlarged participation of the colleagues from their capitals and those countries that are not represented here. As a result, the discussion at the open-ended CPR would indeed enrich our debates and help us prepare better for the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in its format of a truly universal forum.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China believes that it is important to finalize the revision of the rules of procedure as soon as possible in order to allow for its adoption by UNEA. Although we will largely be looking at the UNEP Governing Council Rules of Procedures, the new upgraded status of UNEP demands that we review the Rules to allow for the universal membership agreed upon during the last UNEP Governing Council meeting in 2013. Therefore, during this session of the CPR, we invite all those, who have not yet done so to provide constructive comments on the Rules of Procedures in order to move this process forward to provide to UNEA the blueprint for its operation. The CPR itself should debate whether it would be appropriate to adopt, eventually, supplementary rules of procedure of its own, in order to accommodate the increased participation of non-resident Permanent Representatives and stakeholders in its proceedings.

In our view, the broadest possible participation of all Member States in preparation of UNEA is very important, particularly with regard to the elaboration of the Medium-Term Strategy, the Programme of Work and Budget, and the drafting of decisions to be undertaken by the CPR.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China underscores the challenge and the importance of eradicating poverty worldwide and promoting sustainable development. Both are deeply related and must be addressed through an integrated and flexible approach, applying the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner.

The Group of 77 and China stresses the importance of ongoing efforts in New York on the work on sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, which should not be prejudged by our discussion here during the UNEA. It is the expectation of the Group that the outcome of the New York process will be taken up in the programme of work of various organizations in the UN system.

It is our role as members of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives to UNEP to ensure that UNEP does not deviate from the goals our Heads of State and Government agreed upon in the Rio+20 Conference and at the General Assembly. Similarly, it is also our role to ensure that UNEP does not diffuse energy and efforts in duplicating the work of other multilateral organization and conventions.

Looking ahead, UNEP's role in championing the environmental dimension of sustainable development is of paramount importance and will increase in time. Therefore it is also important that activities agreed upon will add further value to the Rio+20 outcomes.

We must collectively work toward ensuring that the Programme gains legitimacy and relevance by becoming more responsive, more accountable and more useful to Member States.

As we reach the 50th anniversary of G77 and China on 15th June this year, we will continue with determination which characterizes our group to cooperate with others and UNEP to attain the sustainable development. And in order to mark the Jubilee Celebration as well as to raise the profile of our first UNEA, the Group of 77 and China is planning to organize during UNEA, our special events for the Group's Ministers and Chairs of G77 and China from other chapters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
