



THE GROUP OF 77

Nairobi Office of the Chairman
PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (+254-020) 7623431/3766, E-mail: G77@unon.org

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Talaat,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Kenya, and the Permanent Representative to UNEP, UN-HABITAT, and UNON, and Chairman of the Group of 77 and China Chapter in Nairobi, at the 130th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment

Programme

(UNON, Nairobi, 31st March 2015)

Mr. Chairman,

Executive Director of UNEP,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I wish to begin by welcoming the comprehensive report presented by Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP on the work undertaken by the program since the 129th meeting of the CPR held last January. In this regard, the Group of 77 commends UNEP's strong involvement in the various processes that are currently taking place including the deliberations on the Post-2015 Development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, the preparations for the Third International conference on Financing for Development (FFD) to be held in Addis Ababa next July, Sustainable Consumption and Production in context of the ten Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) and Climate Change. We also welcome the progress achieved in the Global Environment Outlook GEO-6 process.

We also welcome UNEP's efforts in the deployment of Umoja across UNEP global operations with a view to go live on 1st of June. As a result, we look forward to improved efficiency of operations and more effective functioning of UNEP in delivering its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are all aware, a very special year lies ahead of us. 2015 marks the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations. It is a year in which Sustainable Development assumes a special position at the forefront of multi-lateral diplomacy as the international efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are being concluded. Additional efforts are underway to finalize the post-2015 global development agenda, address its means of implementation, and set up ways to measure and monitor progress.

In 2015, member states of the United Nations shall be working in order to reach agreement on the means implementation for the post 2015 development agenda in July, to conclude the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September 2015 and, finally, to hopefully reach agreement during the Conference of Parties COP-21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC in Paris in December.

Towards this end, the 3st round of intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was concluded last week, and the 1st drafting session on outcome document for the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development took place last January whereas the second session shall be held next April.

As it has always been the position of the Group of 77 and China that the intergovernmental nature of the processes, which were open and transparent, need to be fully preserved. In addition, internationally agreed outcomes and principles should not be re-opened or re-negotiated.

Mr. Chairman,

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

In their meeting in Santa Cruz last year, leaders of G77 reiterated that "development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural, and political process that aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population" while maintaining the importance of balancing the economic, social and environmental needs of the present and future generations and promoting harmony with nature, the Earth and its ecosystems.

It is important to continue to recognize "poverty eradication" as the overarching objective for the realization of sustainable development. In addition fighting inequality and striving to safeguard the well-being of future generations remain objectives of utmost importance.

We also stress the importance of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, social, economic and environmental, in a balanced manner while highlighting the significance of the Rio principles, in particular the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities CBDR.

In order to meet our development aspirations, the means of Implementation, including capacity development, technology transfer and financial resources remain among our top priorities. In addition, a strengthened global partnership for development remains critically important, and, in the same vein, the 10-Years Framework Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production must be inclusively promoted.

G77 and China notes that although South-South Cooperation is an important tool for development endeavors, it remains complementary to and not a replacement for the North-South Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

World leaders at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development which embraces economic progress, social development, and environmental protection for the benefit of all.

In this endeavour, as an integrated approach was adopted to embed the environment in the goals and targets of the SDGs, UNEP as an implementing agency and as the lead international body on the environment, has a very important role to play.

In this regards, we commend the UNEP's initiative in starting the discussion on the preparations for the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP UNEA-2. In 2016, UNEA-2 should build on the work accomplished in 2015. Ministers Participating in UNEA-2 shall give the political and strategic guidance to UNEP in its contribution for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, they shall also tackle the challenges posed by the adoption of a new legally binding agreement on Climate Change, specially on developing countries, that shall be reached in COP-21 in Paris, and is expected to enter into force in 2020.

In this context, I stress the need to ensure the finalization of the incomplete business of the last session of UNEA, including amendment of the Rules of Procedures and the adoption of the Stakeholders Engagement Policy, as well as the full implementation of Paragraph 88, of the Rio+20 Outcome document. This has to be done in an open and transparent manner. Members of the CPR shall be fully involved in this process in order to achieve consensus on an outcome

that retains the intergovernmental nature of UNEP, respects the diversity of the national legislations of member-states, and ensures the active participation of the relevant stakeholders, in particular from developing countries.

High priority should be given, inter alia, to the Consolidation of UNEP Headquarter functions in Nairobi, strengthening UNEP's Sub-regional presence and the revitalization of the Bali strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.

UNEA-2 should also follow up on the implementation of the decisions taken by UNEA-1, the discussion on the Programme of Work & Budget, as well as the preparations for the Medium Term Strategy MTS 2018-2021.

In our view, the broadest possible participation of all Member States in preparation of UNEA-2 is very important, particularly with regard to the elaboration of the Medium-Term Strategy, the Programme of Work and Budget (2018/2019), and the drafting of decisions to be undertaken by the CPR.

We should also focus early enough on selecting the theme of the discussions in the Ministerial high level Segment to allow ample time for the substantive preparations and to ensure the active participation of the member-states in this process, especially those who are not represented in Nairobi. It is important to start deliberations on the outcome of UNEA-2 at an early stage, so as not to repeat the last-minute debates that member states had to go through last year while negotiating the outcome document of UNEA-1.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, The Group of 77 and China underscores, once more, 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, the post-2015 development agenda and the means of implementation.

Looking ahead, UNEP's role in promoting the environmental dimension of sustainable development is of paramount importance and, we believe, shall gain even greater significance with time. Therefore it is important that we work collectively with UNEP to ensure that the Program gains more relevance by becoming more useful, accountable and responsive to the needs of Member States. The Group of 77 is resolved to continue cooperation with UNEP and all other relevant parties to attain the goals of sustainable development.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
