

Thank you Madame Chair,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Deputy Executive Director and representatives of the Secretariat, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to align myself with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

Germany has followed with great interest the important discussions at the Annual Subcommittee Meeting over the course of this week. We thank the Secretariat for providing good insights into the advancement of its Programme of Work, and look forward to further discussions on all of these challenges and solutions.

We note with satisfaction that we are moving forward in our common endeavour to make UNEA-3 a success. We welcome the ambitious approach that the Secretariat is taking in making UNEA an interactive, highly visible event that will catalyze action from a broad range of stakeholders – looking also beyond this December. Over the next months, strategic, clearly articulated and coordinated action will be necessary in order to reach an ambitious outcome of UNEA-3 as well as to prepare commitments which go beyond business as usual. The meaningful engagement of the private sector and civil society is crucial in order to kick-off the transformation toward a pollution-free planet in a comprehensive manner.

Over the next months, the German Environment Ministry is hosting several conferences, which can deliver important input in this regard.

Let me just mention the following ones:

- The G20 Resource Efficiency Workshop next week, which UN Environment and the UN International Resource Panel are contributing to,
- The 2017 Ministerial Conference of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, of which UN Environment is a member, at the end of this month, and
- an international conference on sustainable chemistry in May.

Madame Chair,

Germany would very much like to thank UN Environment and PAGE for the great cooperation in organising the 2017 PAGE Ministerial Conference together with my government. We hope that the Conference will allow us to move further towards more sustainable and more inclusive economies worldwide. Moreover, the discussions during the conference will hopefully also deliver input to our debates about “pollution”, private sector engagement and UNEA-3.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank UN Environment for its efforts in the field of sustainable chemistry. To achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda, it is important that we adopt a holistic approach to sustainable chemistry, one which takes ecological, economic and social aspects of the entire life cycle of chemicals into account. To further advance this task, the German government will be launching the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre

(ISC₃) on 17 May 2017 in Berlin. An international conference to which all Member States are invited will be held to mark this occasion. We believe that this event will also foster our discussions on chemicals and sustainable chemistry in relation to the UNEA-3 focus on “pollution”.

Colleagues,

I am optimistic that we are on a good path towards a successful UNEA-3 and I look forward to continuing this constructive cooperation in securing an ambitious outcome.

I thank you very much.

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