

Switzerland's statement on Agenda Item 3:

*Delivered by Mr Florian Gubler, DPR of Switzerland*

First:

Switzerland welcomes the presented **status report on the implementation of the 25 resolutions** adopted at the 2nd UN Environment Assembly. The report responds successfully to the request made by the member states to provide regular updates on the work on the resolutions and to link the resolutions to the respective subprogrammes of UNEP, the Medium-Term-Strategy and the Programme of Work. We are looking forward to receiving updates of this document in the run-up to the 3rd UN Environment Assembly.

Second:

Switzerland welcomes the largely positive outcome of the latest **MOPAN Assessment** of the UN Environment Programme. MOPAN Assessments in general are highly relevant for Switzerland for its policy dialogue with multilateral organisations as well as for its domestic accountability.

Third:

We understand that UNEP wants to put much more emphasis on **increasing its efforts on outreach, awareness-raising and advocacy to the general public**. We see some value in that. For example, we liked the well-made online version of the annual report 2016. This is a good example how outreach towards a broader audience can be improved.

At the same time, the budget presentation paints a picture where decreasing core contributions limit the human and financial resources necessary to cover

the core work of UNEP's mandate. We would like to emphasize that the member states remain the key stakeholders of the programme. We are not convinced that UNEP has the adequate instruments, the know-how and financial means to prioritize public outreach. There are other stakeholders like international civil society organizations, with whom UNEP should cooperate, which are much better equipped to do such work. Switzerland would advise the programme to set priorities according to UNEP's core mandate and the decisions taken at UNEA.

Fourth and last point:

The Committee of permanent representatives has the mandate to **monitor and guide UNEP's budget performance**. Unfortunately, with the financial overview provided before this meeting, it is impossible to do a proper analysis of the budget performance.

The presented numbers are lacking details. There is no comparison with previous years and no projection for the ongoing year.

There is no break-down of costs, not even with regard to post and non-post costs, let alone expenses for travel, consultancies, etc.

The numbers are not linked to the Medium-Term Strategy, the Programme of Work or the adopted Resolutions.

We would therefore ask the secretariat to provide Member States with an updated and more detailed financial report.

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