

**High Commission of India
Nairobi**

PRESS BRIEF

Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly at Nairobi from 11th to 15th March, 2019

India pilots resolutions on Single-use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen management at Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly

The Fourth Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) was held in Nairobi from 11th to 15th March 2019. The theme of the UNEA this year was Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.



In a significant first, India piloted resolutions on two important global environment issues relating to Single-use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen management at the UNEA and both resolutions were adopted with consensus. Head of Indian delegation, High Commissioner of India and Permanent Representative to UNEP Mr. Rahul Chhabra underscored the importance of sustainable production and consumption during his speech at UNEA. He highlighted that both these resolutions are vital first steps towards addressing the global challenges of single use plastic products and pollution by reactive nitrogen which threaten human health.

India also hosted, in the High Level Segment of UNEA, a session on “Global Partnerships: Key to Unlocking Resource Efficiency and Inclusive Green Economies”. The side event was well attended by representatives of Member States, Civil Society Organizations, private sector organizations including leading finan-

cial institutions. The Side Event had a panel discussion which had High Level diplomatic participation from Germany, Brazil, South Africa and senior management of international financial institutions. The mainstreaming of resource efficiency and use of secondary raw materials through partnerships and action at scale is critical for moving towards green economy. It emerged that collaborations and action at scale is key to success. The actions should be oriented towards having an inclusive green economy. Blended finance will help in implementation. Public finance should be provided to de-risk private finance in transformational projects.

The Indian delegation, headed by High Commissioner of India to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP Mr. Rahul Chhabra, also participated in the panel discussion in High Level Segment on “Need for additional commitments of public finance and the ways to maximise mobilisation of climate finance”.



It was highlighted that climate finance is an important lever for climate action related to both mitigation and adaptation in the developing countries. The contributions to climate finance need to be in consonance with the basic principles of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC). Climate finance is more of an obligation of the developed countries, based on their historical emissions. The availability of sufficient, additional and predictable climate finance is a key for action. Importantly, the lack of pledged funds in Green Climate Fund and the potential reliance on private sector has been highlighted by many developing countries. India has been initiating domestic climate actions, both related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, primarily through its own financial resources. There is a sense of urgency for financial support to developing countries, which have not been so responsible for these global environmental concerns.

On the sidelines of UNEA, Observer Research Foundation organised a side event with the theme 'India and Africa: Partnership for sustainability'. High Commissioner Rahul Chhabra gave closing remarks on the occasion.



[Nairobi, 16 March 2019]