

Statement at the 19th meeting of the Advisory Board to the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)

Speaker: Mr. Steven Stone, Deputy Director, Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme

29th March 2022

Thank you Chair, thank you very much for inviting me to speak at this 19th meeting of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

CTCN advisory board members, colleagues from the UN, observers, ladies, and gentlemen:

1. I would like to begin by sharing some background on myself. I joined UNEP over 12 years ago and took this post of Deputy Director last November, having served as Chief of Economics and Trade Branch since 2010, and later, Resources & Markets Branch from 2017 to 2021. An Environmental Economist by training, I worked also with the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank before joining UNEP. **And I am very much looking forward to supporting UNEP and its partners in contributing to the success of the the CTCN.**
2. Second, I would like to extend UNEP's deep appreciation for the vote of confidence you expressed at COP26 in Glasgow by recommending the renewal of the hosting arrangement of the CTCN. I can confirm that the Executive Director of **UNEP and the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC have already executed the agreement for the next five years.** We also look forward to continuing and deepening our collaboration and partnership with our sister agency UNIDO in supporting the CTCN to execute this COP mandate. In this regard, **UNEP and UNIDO are already working on renewed collaborative arrangements to support the CTCN** and my good colleague Stephan Sicars, Managing Director for Energy and Environment at UNIDO who is also here with us today, will also make some remarks in this regard.
3. The renewal of the mandate for CTCN comes at an important time in UNEP when we are implementing a new Medium-Term Strategy. Under this new strategy, UNEP will focus on **key climate, nature and pollution outcomes**, recognizing the important role CTCN plays in supporting developing countries to access environmentally sound technologies. To this end, the MTS states that **UNEP will work to connect countries to climate technology solutions** by providing technical assistance, capacity-building and advice on technology solutions and accelerated access to climate technologies for low-emission and climate-resilient

development, through the CTCN and partners. UNEP will also contribute to enabling policy, legal and regulatory frameworks for technology solutions tailored to the needs of individual countries by harnessing the expertise of global networks and institutions.

4. In addition, as part of the MTS, UNEP is implementing a new programme of work on **digital transformations** for the environment, and we look forward to deploying the extensive CTCN network in implementing this new work programme.
5. Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, UNEP has just concluded the 5th UN Environment Assembly under the theme “**Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**”. Member States agreed on several key resolutions – from green recovery to circular economy to a new science-policy panel on chemicals and waste. One of the most important outcomes of UNEA is a historic resolution to [End Plastic Pollution](#) and to forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024. Here again, technological solutions and therefore CTCN can play a key role in providing solutions to what UNEP calls the “triple planetary crisis” of climate, nature and pollution.
6. CTCN is growing and as you know, the UNEP Executive Director signed a host country agreement with the Republic of Korea for the **CTCN Partnership and Liaison office in Songdo** and also signed the Agreement for funding the Liaison office for the next 5 years. I am pleased to inform you that the operationalization of this office has commenced in earnest, and we are now in the process recruiting the staff for this office. UNEP is working with the Republic of Korea to arrange for a high-level launch of this office later in the year and we hope many of you can join us for this event.
7. Some of you may have heard that UNEP is transitioning away from the Danish Technical University. UNEP is in the process of an **orderly transfer of operational and administrative hosting responsibilities for the UNEP-DTU partnership (UDP) to UNOPS**, the UN Office for Project Services, co-located in the UN City complex here in Copenhagen, while maintaining strategic and programmatic leadership. The new center will have been named the **UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP CCC)**. Although this is a somewhat a delicate process, a dedicated team is working to effect a smooth and efficient transfer with minimal impact on operations and limited disruption to the valuable services it provides to UNEP, the CTCN and others.
8. Lastly, ladies and gentlemen, UNEP is pleased to **present you the audited and certified accounts of the CTCN** which will be presented by our FMO. We continue our commitment to provide oversight on the CTCN operational mandate and to ensure that it continues to operate within the UN standards of transparency and accountability. In this regard, we thank all the member states who make voluntary contributions to the CTCN Trust Fund, and we look forward to your continued support in order to carry this important work forward into the next five years.
9. With your permission Chair, I now call upon my colleague Stephan Sicars from UNIDO to make a few remarks.