#Statement on: 3. Secretariat

The African Group generally supports the provisions outlined for the Secretariat, specifically Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, and 5. These paragraphs define the core functions and responsibilities of the Secretariat, ensuring it can effectively support the instrument's implementation.

Regarding Paragraph 3, the African Group strongly endorses the proposal for UNEP to host the Secretariat. We believe UNEP's experience and expertise in environmental matters make it well-positioned for this critical role.

Furthermore, the African Group urges the implementation of Paragraph 88 of the Rio Declaration. This paragraph calls for strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority. A robust UNEP is essential for supporting the effective implementation of this instrument and other multilateral environmental agreements.