



REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA
Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía
Despacho del Ministro



San José, Friday, July 21st, 2017
DM-700-2017

To: The Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Permanent Representatives at UN Environment
Excellencies,

As you know, during the Committee of Permanent Representatives' Subcommittee Meeting on the 6th of July, my representative in Nairobi, H.E. Ms. Marta E. Juárez Ruiz, presented my Statement on the *Progress on the Ministerial Outcome Document* (also known as Ministerial Declaration), as part of Agenda Item 2.

Following that Statement, the Chair of the Committee, H.E. Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana, -who I would like to congratulate very much on his new role as Chair-, ably led a discussion with members on the progress towards the development of this Declaration, for which a Zero Draft is now available.

By means of this letter I would like to respond to the points and questions raised by the various Regional Groups and Member States during that session and provide more clarity on the process, as requested by members during the 6th July Committee of Permanent Representatives' Subcommittee Meeting. This will also serve as further guidance for the joint Bureaux in order to move forward with the process in a successful manner.

First of all, I would like to thank all delegations that have provided many constructive inputs to the development of the Ministerial Outcome Document (Declaration) during the 6th July CPR Session and through written submissions. Regarding any specific comments on the contents of the Declaration, I would like to underline, that as President of the UN Environment Assembly, I cannot and should not interfere with the negotiation of the Declaration. Hence, I cannot refer to any substance-related comments made.

At the same time, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to delegates for their kind words regarding the Declaration's development process and our timely submission of its Zero Draft to Member States. This is very encouraging!

I would like to reiterate that the process of developing this Declaration will continue to happen in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. Also, as we agreed during the Joint Bureaux Retreat in Costa Rica in June 2017, I will continuously keep you -delegations in Nairobi and those that are non-resident- informed about our progress towards developing and finalizing the Declaration as we go forward.

During the CPR discussion on the 6th of July there were questions from various members on the process and time table going forward, in terms of moving from the current Zero Draft towards a final Declaration ready for adoption at the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly in December 2017. Please let me clarify here, what are the steps that need to be taken to complete this important process.

First, I circulated a Zero Draft on the 4th of July, which was initially discussed during the CPR session on the 6th of July. During July and August, Regional Groups and Member States should provide their comments on the Zero Draft to me, my representative in Nairobi, and the UN Environment Secretariat. *Those comments should be received by August 30th at latest. This is one month earlier than the previously announced date of September 30th, to allow for a timely start of the negotiations of the Declaration towards the UN Environment Assembly.*

I understand that several ministerial-level consultations will take place already in July and August during which comments on the Declaration will be formulated. Receiving all comments by the 30th of August will allow us to come back with a new draft in a timely manner.

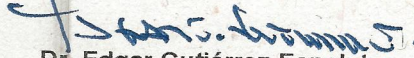
During a Joint Bureau Meeting to be held in mid-September, the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the CPR will decide together when that new draft will be discussed. It is expected that a Preliminary Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document will be ready, shortly after the September Joint Bureaux Meeting.

The distribution of the Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document is expected to happen in the first half of October, in advance of the 140th CPR Subcommittee Meeting. Further regional consultations on the final draft Ministerial Outcome Document are expected in the second half of October, while final inputs on this final draft should be received by the third week of November. Then, informal consultations on the draft will take place in Nairobi at the end of November, just before the Open Ended CPR session which has been scheduled for November 29-30, in advance of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly taking place on December 4th – 6th. I hope this clarifies our way forward. Below, the precise dates of each of the milestones of this Roadmap are presented:

- August 30th: Final day for inputs on the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document
- September 13th: Preliminary Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document
- October 6th: Final day for inputs on the Preliminary Draft
- October 12th: 140th CPR Committee Meeting in Nairobi
- October 20th: Distribution of the Final Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document
- November 20th: Final day for inputs on the Final Draft
- November 27th-28th: MOD informal consultations in Nairobi
- December 6th: Adoption at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

Please let me repeat that we look forward to receiving your detailed comments on the draft Ministerial Outcome Document by August 30th. We encourage Regional Groups and Member States to provide their comments, inputs and ideas at latest by that date, so we can ensure finalization, negotiation and adoption of the Declaration within the scope of our tight time table.

On a final note, I would like to thank all Regional Groups and Member States for their positive approach and contributions to this process that, I am sure, will lead to an inspiring and actionable Ministerial Outcome Document. Thank you very much for your continuous support!



Dr. Edgar Gutiérrez-Espeleta
Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica
President of the UN Environment Assembly

