November 2nd, 2017

Excellency,

I want to express my very deep gratitude to all Member States and Stakeholders for their active engagement in the preparation of the Ministerial Outcome Document of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly.

It is my pleasure to hereby submit for your consideration the final draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document. I am confident that this draft reflects the efforts to reach consensus by all Member States and strongly believe we are getting ever closer to our shared goal.

Having said this, delegations are encouraged to continue to engage in the process of consultations currently underway, including a second consultation on the Ministerial Outcome Document with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which is scheduled to take place on the 6th of November 2017 at 16:30 (Nairobi time). I will attend this meeting via video conference and have requested the Secretariat to share an invitation to all Member States to participate.

I am aware that there are still some issues that we may need to overcome together. I will spare no efforts to continue working with you in the spirit of transparency, inclusivity and flexibility. It is my ambition that the positive spirit that has allowed us to reach this far will be continued until we all share the success of adopting this important document during the Assembly in December.

As you consider this final draft, I would like to inform you that the Third Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives includes a provision for final negotiations, which I will attend in person. I know that we all share the commitment towards a successful Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly. Together, let us continue to work towards the Ministerial Outcome Document that we, Ministers responsible for the Environment, wish to see and that the world expects from us.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at: president.unea2@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta
Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica
President of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Ministers responsible for the of the environment
Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme
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