

Dear colleagues of UNEP Secretariat,
Dear colleagues of the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment,

With reference to the letter from the UNEA Presidency requesting initial ideas and inputs regarding the preparation of the ministerial declaration, please find below comments by Brazil:

QUESTION 1 - "What would you, as government/organization/stakeholder, welcome as the most important elements and/or key messages from the ministers in the declaration to address the theme in an impactful manner?"

- Brazil considers that the ministerial declaration to be adopted at UNEA5 should aim, above all, at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Sustainable Development Goals. Recognizing our common but differentiated responsibilities, the ministerial declaration should give particular attention to the needs of developing countries to implement their commitments.
- While the ministerial declaration of a UN Environment Assembly is expected to focus on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, it should also give adequate consideration to its social and economic dimensions, given the synergies between the three dimensions of the concept.
- One key message to be reiterated through the ministerial declaration is contained in Principle 1 of the 1992 Rio Declaration, according to which "human beings are at the center of the concerns for sustainable development". The expression "actions for nature" contained in the agreed theme of UNEA5 should therefore be read in this light, and focus cannot be lost from the second part of the theme ("to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"). It is therefore crucial to approach "actions for nature" from a perspective inspired, for example, by the balance among the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (actions for conservation; actions for sustainable use; actions for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits).
- The ministerial declaration should reinforce the centrality of sustainable development as our only roadmap for the future, further consolidating the conceptual and institutional framework agreed at the Rio+20 Conference and incorporated at the 2030 Agenda.
- Brazil favors a short and concise ministerial declaration, cognizant of its political nature, written in a constructive and positive tone.

QUESTION 2 - "How can the Environment Assembly make a significant contribution to 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' at a global scale? In doing so, you may take into account the preparation for the meeting, its conduct and follow-up, and well as its relationship to other meetings and processes."

- Brazil considers that the UN Environment Assembly should serve as a platform to identify ways to increase international cooperation and solidarity aimed at the implementation of environmental commitments.
- Initiatives viewing the UN Environment Assembly as a platform to increase synergies among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements can be commendable, but it is equally important that their roles and mandates are duly respected. The deliberations within UNEA should not encroach on other intergovernmental debates ongoing in other fora, such as the FAO, UNFCCC and CBD.
- With the exception of the ministerial declaration, a text that, notwithstanding consultations held within the CPR, traditionally has been proposed by the Presidency of UNEA, in consultation with the UNEA Bureau, the preparation of the substantive outcomes of the Assembly should be undertaken within the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an inclusive and transparent manner, in full respect, *inter alia*, of Governing Council Decision 19/32, paragraph 7(d), and Governing Council Decision 27/2, paragraph 9(c). Similarly, the follow up of UNEA decisions is to be undertaken with the support of the Secretariat under the guidance of the CPR.