



**First informal substantive consultation meeting
under the auspices of the CPR on UNGA Resolution 73/333**

21-23 July 2020

**Remarks by Brazil on Cluster 3
(Environmental Rule of Law)**

as delivered by Mr. Patrick Luna,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

As our debates reach the cluster of issues relating to the environmental rule of law, Brazil agrees that ratifying MEAs is a fundamental step to achieve the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The political declaration should include a strong call for those that have not yet done so to consider adhering to these legal regimes. The Treaty Event convened annually by the Secretary-General at the margins of the high-level week should continue being used as a platform to encourage ratification of these agreements.

Brazil is a party to most of the MEAs and a strong supporter of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ratifying a treaty is not enough; parties must work domestically to ensure that their legal commitments are translated into reality. This effort requires enhanced coordination among different governmental agencies, fostering national strategies and action plans aimed at achieving the goals of the MEAs.

I wish to share a couple of examples of how Brazil has been doing this. The decision to re-establish the National Council for the Amazon strengthened our ability to coordinate domestic efforts at all levels to implement the international legal commitments that we have sovereignly agreed into, including those related to fighting illegal deforestation and to promoting the bioeconomy of the region. Significant progress has also been made in solid waste management, as demonstrated by the adoption, just last week, of a new legal framework for sanitation.

As we discuss the strengthening of the environmental rule of law, Brazil highlights that it remains critical to adopt an inclusive and open approach, recognizing that international commitments must be read in light of each State party's settings and capacities. The development of national indicators for the SDGs also provide important contributions to assess the implementation of MEAs. Within the CDB and the Aichi Targets, for example, Brazil promoted consultations with relevant stakeholders in order to formulate a national plan on biodiversity that enjoys support throughout society.

Brazil considers that the declaration we are now preparing could lead to additional political attention, and financial resources, to UNEP's Montevideo V Programme. Its mandate to, upon request, provide capacity building and support Member States in the development of domestic legislation to implement international environmental commitments converges with the objectives of the political declaration. Brazil was looking forward to host the very first meeting of national focal points for the Montevideo V Programme in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year, which unfortunately had to be postponed due to the current pandemic.

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

Over the past seven decades, Brazil has been a steadfast supporter of the International Law Commission in its mandate to contribute to the progressive development and to the codification of international law. The ongoing work within the ILC on general principles of law, once finalized and discussed in the UN General Assembly, will hopefully provide us with a clearer understanding, for example, on how to identify principles. This contribution will be of paramount importance, to move us away from ambiguous terminologies so often read in reports and declarations, where the term "principle" is sometimes used to describe regional practices that are not legally binding. The preparation of the political declaration should therefore not prejudice the careful studies undertaken by the Commission, which Member States can annually discuss in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, so as to avoid duplication of work and unwarranted fragmentation.

Thank you, Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator.
