

**Statement by the Republic of Costa Rica at the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on Agenda item 7 “preparation for the fifth session of UN Environment Assembly”**

Thank you Chair,

Costa Rica wishes to thank the Executive Director and the Secretariat for their active engagement with Member States, and for preparing the working documents.

The delegation of the Republic of Costa Rica has reviewed the draft structure for the Virtual Session of UNEA-5 and believes that the designated time and proposed schedule for the Virtual Session is indeed satisfactory.

Regarding the proposed procedural decisions, Costa Rica seeks more clarifications from the Legal Advisor and the Secretariat on the procedural implications but strongly welcomes the initiative and looks forward to reviewing them during the first segment of UNEA-5 as it is on Costa Rica’s best interest to ensure UNEP’s business continuity but also to obtain ambitious outcomes despite the virtual format due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, Costa Rica also strongly agrees with the proposal presented by the distinguished delegation of Norway, allowing the first segment of UNEA 5 as a very important opportunity to express political messages which cannot wait to the second segment on 2022.

Thank you Chair,