

**COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
4 MARCH 2021**

ARGENTINA

Agenda Item 3: inputs of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (Ref. UNEP/SC/2021/2/3)

Mr. Chair,

As a general comment, as it was indicated in previous meetings, it is important for delegations in general and for developing countries in particular to receive the documents with a sufficient advance notice, as many Delegations do not have the resources or staff to analyse documents circulated at short notice.

In this regard, it is necessary that the future changes made to the documents are circulated with change control to facilitate the checking of the modifications requested, as well as the checking of new additions made to points unrelated to the changes requested by that State.

This will be important, for example, during this series of Sub-Committee meetings, which are scheduled within a few days of each other and where little time is foreseen to review the documents. In this regard, we request to the Secretariat to circulate the documents as far in advance as possible.

Mr. Chair,

The Argentine Delegation has particular comments to the Draft Document circulated. We have prepared a document with our proposals and comments and we will send it to the Secretariat.

We consider that the document has to be based in agreed language and should not move forward concepts or conclusions that are not yet agreed, in dispute, or are beyond the objectives, goals and principles agreed upon under Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

In this regards, we are requesting to replace the word “green” for “sustainable”, and the phrase “green the food supply and agriculture systems” to “sustainable food systems and agriculture systems”. We also request to delete the concepts “decarbonization and dematerialization” and replace it for “greenhouse emission reductions”.

In point e) numeral 4 (recommendation to scale-up climate action), when we mention the COP26 we should not move forward to considerations that are not related to the COP and are not part of its agenda.

Also, in the Key Messages, Point f), numeral 5, we should keep a language in line with the spirit of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and not move forward with the concept of “global collective leadership” as it is unknown and can have many interpretations with different implications.

In Annex 1, paragraph 2, the assertion on the link between forest loss/land use change and the emergence of zoonoses is disputed, so we are proposing alternative language.

Also in Annex 1, but paragraph 3, the whole reference to exacerbated deforestation pressures due to COVID 19 pandemic is a general comment without supportive evidence. It is cautionary to remove it as there might be stark differences between regions and even countries.

Also, it is worth noting that the 16th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests has been tasked with considering an assessment report on the impact of the pandemic on forests and forest-sectors. The final version of this report has not yet been publicly released.

Mr. Chair,

As we said before, we are sending these comments and wording proposals in written to the Secretariat for a better understanding and identification in the document, in order to facilitate the work of the Subcommittee.

Thank you very much.