



**United Nations Environment Programme
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting**

4 March 2021

**Remarks by Brazil on item 3
Inputs to the 2021 High Level Political Forum**

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

Mr. Chairman,

The fact that the UNEA Presidency is given an opportunity to address the High Level Political Forum has not been a given; it had to be fought for. Brazil considers it critical that UNEA continues to be heard within the HLPF and that our inputs be substantive, objective, concise and prepared through an inclusive and transparent process.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing a draft of the inputs to be submitted to the incoming HLPF. According to Resolution 3/3, the Executive Director is mandated to prepare the inputs under the guidance of the President of the Assembly, "in consultation with and for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives". Brazil is appreciative of the fact that we have three Subcommittee meetings already scheduled to examine this issue.

These occasions should be enough for this task to be adequately completed, provided that we remind ourselves that we are not expected to engage in line-by-line negotiations and also that, when preparing future iterations of the inputs, the guidance from Member States is fully taken into consideration. It will also be crucial for the inputs to be tightly aligned with the language contained in previous UNEA negotiated outcomes and refrain from resorting to concepts that were not multilaterally agreed-upon.

Mr. Chairman,

The loss of lives during the pandemic is a tragic yet compelling reminder of Principle 1 of the 1992 Rio Declaration, according to which human beings are at the center of the concerns for sustainable development.

The pandemic has widened inequalities between developed and developing countries and has severely increased social vulnerability in developing economies. Addressing the environmental crises should

rely on eradicating poverty and creating adequate incentives for sustainable livelihoods, reinforcing the role of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as fundamental roadmaps to achieve sustainable development.

The pandemic has placed a significant financial burden on national governments, especially in developing countries, and has highlighted the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation and solidarity and for innovative solutions to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

During UNEA 5.1 Leadership Dialogue, many Ministers of the Environment and other high-level authorities noted that, so as to build back better, we need to substantially increase resource mobilization for developing countries, in accordance with the Rio Principles, with a view to address the lack of financial support, capacity gaps and technological constraints, all factors that currently undermine developing countries' efforts to implement their environmental commitments. This is a crucial element of the inputs to be sent from UNEA to the HLPF, which needs to be adequately addressed in the document.

Mr. Chairman,

From Brazil's perspective, the emergence of zoonotic diseases constitutes a complex and multi-causal phenomenon. While habitat loss may increase human-wildlife contact, we should not lose sight of other relevant drivers that affect species distribution and are likely to aggravate human-wildlife contact as well, such as pollution and climate change. Therefore, the emergence of zoonotic diseases should be understood within a comprehensive perspective on the causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

Moreover, efforts to address the risk of zoonotic outbreak need to consider national circumstances. In this regard, Brazil understands that agricultural intensification should not be singled out as one of the main anthropogenic drivers of zoonoses. Significant advances in biotechnology have enabled agricultural systems to embrace the highest levels of sanitary standards in products of animal origin for human consumption. In addition, relevant multilateral organizations, especially the World Organization for Animal Health and the Codex Alimentarius, have developed a growing body of specific guidelines to foster sustainable agriculture. Finally, agricultural intensification could substantially increase productivity and resource efficiency, thus reducing pressures on ecosystems.

That being so, Brazil believes the UNEA's contributions should not prejudge which economic activities are more prone to zoonotic infections or not.

Brazil will submit its written comments to the Secretariat and also look forward to delving more deeply on this issue as we read the different sections of the draft input.

Thank you.