

CPR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

6TH MAY 2021

GRULAC STATEMENT

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of the cycle of the term of office of the CPR Bureau

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We are delivering this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group, Nairobi Chapter.

Since the beginning of this debate, we have followed carefully the considerations made by Delegations on the terms of office of the CPR Bureau and its relationship with that of the UNEA Bureau. We do so with a constructive perspective, in the search for the best understanding that will allow us to reach a consensus.

The extraordinary situation imposed on us by the COVID 19 pandemic has led us to take decisions that were also extraordinary. In this regard, it was decided to have an Assembly in two stages, under the leadership of the same Bureau. It was also decided to hold a virtual Assembly session for the first time in its history, to consider urgent administrative and budgetary matters. These are all unprecedented decisions, following an unprecedented situation, which is the global pandemic we are going through.

In previous debates, some delegations noted that the UNEA and CPR are two distinct bodies, and that an alteration of the duration of the mandate of the UNEA Bureau does not necessarily imply the need to modify the mandate of the CPR Bureau. Such an approach would be understandable if one were to apply narrowly a literal interpretation of the rules and decisions. Interpreting such texts, as clarified in Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, also require taking into consideration their object and purpose.

Following Rio+20, as we decided to create UNEA, we also decided to preserve the CPR, which would be the inter-sessional body responsible for the preparation of substantive outcomes of the incoming Assembly, as well as to follow-up the implementation of previous resolutions and decisions adopted by UNEA. In short, an interpretation of the relevant rules which adequately takes into consideration their purposes leads to the understanding that there is a symbiotic relationship between them.

For this reason, and following a decision that implied the extension of the mandate of the UNEA Bureau, we believe it is appropriate to reflect on the cycle of the CPR Bureau, so that it maintains the criteria of coherence, integrity and correlation with the decisions we have taken in relation to UNEA.

It should also be noted that the preparatory process for the second stage of the Assembly will probably present significant challenges for both Bureaux, and for the CPR as a whole, since many of the logistical challenges imposed by the pandemic seem to persist, in particular for developing countries. An extension of the current composition of the CPR Bureau will provide continuity to the whole process, maintaining the constructive relationship between the two organs that has been developing since the beginning of the preparatory process for the first part of UNEA V, and leading to the preparation of a successful Assembly.

In this sense, Mr. Chairman, we believe that, among the options presented by the Secretariat, the one that more adequately reflects these considerations is option B.

At this point, I should also indicate that our Regional Group, which has been having the honour to hold the Chairmanship of the CPR in this period, is in a position to fulfil this mandate and, should the need arise, to present a candidature to complete the period 2021-2022.

Thank you very much.