



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

8 July 2021

**Remarks by Brazil on item 4  
Update on action for biodiversity: the road to  
Kunming CBD COP15, UNEP's new MTS and beyond**

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

Madam Chair,

Brazil is fully engaged in the negotiations towards an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework, one that values biodiversity and the significant ecosystem services it provides in a balanced way. We take this opportunity to share with the CPR our concerns regarding two major issues under negotiation: baselines and means of implementation.

From a scientific and technical perspective, Brazil considers that the pre-industrial period should be the baseline reference for area-based targets. This would allow us to capture the process of ecosystem degradation that has been underway for centuries. Using 2020 as a reference period would also place a disproportionate burden on developing countries. Considering that this is still an open issue, we are disappointed that the Secretariat documents did not provide a comprehensive analysis on possible baselines options, as recommended by SBSTTA/23/1, and rather appear to assume that the year of 2020 is the agreed baseline.

The implementation of the GBF will demand capacity building, technology transfer and funding. Brazil is deeply concerned by the lack of appropriate consideration of this issue during the ongoing negotiations. Brazil recalls the principles of the Rio Declaration, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities, and the legal commitments made when joining CBD, in particular those of developed parties under Article 20.

Furthermore, the ongoing virtual meetings have been making us acutely aware of the inherent limitations of this format of line-by-line conversations, as evidenced by the amount of text kept in brackets. In online settings, delegations lack the space to exchange and test ideas informally but collectively, and such a space is necessary to foster the ambitious outcomes we need. Obviously, the experiences that our capitals have been accumulating in this process, as well as those gathered in the process leading up to UNFCCC COP26, will inform our government's assessment on how to go about the preparations for UNEA-5.2.

Madam Chair,

This briefing in the CPR is useful not only because it keeps us, delegations in Nairobi, in the loop of the crucial process towards the Global Biodiversity Framework. It is useful also because it provides us with an opportunity to expand, through concrete examples, on some crosscutting issues we have been discussing here, including in the preparation of the political declaration mandated by UNGA Resolution 73/333. I will now address two: adherence to agreed vocabulary and coordination among MEAs.

The secretariat continues to apply to its work and refer to concepts that have not yet been multilaterally agreed-upon language, oftentimes at the detriment of concepts that actually have been agreed-upon. We still lack a joint understanding of what NBS are. The several definitions out there have overlaps, but also important differences. UNEA can serve as a platform to forge this common understanding, and we look forward to, when the time comes, engaging constructively with all delegations to achieve this outcome. But, until then, the Secretariat should refrain from using this expression and instead refer to the ecosystem-based approach, which was endorsed by CBD COP-5.

In this regard, we cannot but regret the decision to develop a common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the United Nation's policy and programme planning and delivery. Considering that the contours of NBS remain unclear, we are concerned about the way the CBD Secretariat may seek synergies with other MEAs and UN bodies, including UNEP. Deviating from agreed-upon concepts and approaches is not the best path towards implementing the CBD objectives or the SDGs. Actually, we consider this to be the example of a missed opportunity to strengthen the CBD through the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach as agreed by its COP.

Let me now turn to the issue of synergies among MEAs. Besides being a positive tool for learning process from other conventions and UN agencies, the quest towards synergies is also oftentimes resulting in activities and aspirations for commitments that fall outside

the scope and mandate of different environmental conventions and fora. The insertion of concepts from other conventions and treaties in documents and proposals from the secretariat, without the due consideration of the context of their respective treaties, is not helpful, since it can prejudge negotiations – and, when it comes to the lead-up to COP15, we refer specifically to trade. Hence, the cooperation aimed at synergies should not become an exercise of trying to bring to the environmental agreements and fora activities and/or targets outside their scope and mandate.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

\*\*\*