



Committee of Permanent Representatives 155th Meeting

28 September 2021

Remarks by Brazil on agenda item 5 Preparations for UNEP@50

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

Thank you for giving me the floor, Madam Chair.

Brazil takes this opportunity, from a national perspective, build on some elements of the statement delivered earlier by GRULAC regarding the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of UNEP.

First and foremost, Brazil wishes to echo the understanding that UNEP@50 serves as an opportunity to reflect on “the UNEP we want” for the next fifty years. Brazil applauds the impressive achievements reached under UNEP’s normative mandate over the past decades. As the UN works on reforming its developing system, it is time for us here in Nairobi to take a fresh look at how this Programme can better assist Member States in the implementation of their environmental commitments – for instance, by acting as a clearinghouse of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, thereby connecting the dots between Member States requiring assistance and those with the necessary capacities, technology, and financial resources. We therefore fully endorse the suggestion that the CPR consider that UNEP@50 be convened under the theme “Towards the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development”.

Secondly, Brazil considers the suggestion to upgrade the World Environment Situation Room with a physical presence in Nairobi as positive and, like GRULAC, would like to receive additional information in this regard. From our vantage point, the universality of

UNEP – a crucial point of Paragraph 88 of “The Future we Want” – calls for a more geographically balanced structure of its science-policy interface. We trust that such an initiative can pave the way for an enhanced participation of scientists and academia of the Global South.

Thirdly, Brazil concurs with the understanding that this anniversary should serve as an occasion to reflect on how to adequately fund UNEP. In this regard, it will be important to address the earmarking of contributions, an issue that poses important challenges both from programmatic and administrative angles. Excessive earmarking has been establishing an asymmetry of resources across subprogrammes – a trend that has led to the underfunding of UNEP’s foundational mandates of science and governance and runs counter to the Secretary-General’s call for the UN to deliver as one.

Still regarding the financing of UNEP and echoing a point raised by GRULAC, Brazil would seek additional clarification regarding what is meant with the “strengthening of the fair share concept”. Member States have agreed in 2002 to establish a Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions, but in doing so consciously avoided the expression “fair”. And that is because, for many of us, “fairness” is word that can only be applied in this realm it along the lines of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Fourth, Brazil agrees that communications are an important component of UNEP@50. If we are to affect environmental change in the scale with need, UNEP need to engage beyond governments, reaching civil society, private sector and individuals. As it does so, it will be crucial that its communication materials, such a revamped website and social media, be in line with the vocabulary agreed by the Assembly – ensuring, thereby, a compelling and cohesive messaging from the leading global environmental authority to the world.

Thank you.
