

## **GRULAC DRAFT STATEMENT**

### **159° MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Thank you again, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor. Now, it's my pleasure to address the CPR as chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, GRULAC, Nairobi chapter.

At the outset, I want to convey the Group's appreciation to the Secretariat and to you, Mme. ED, for the hard work carried out just after the remarkable achievements of the Fifth Assembly.

The Group receives with appreciation the briefing on the ED's Quarterly Report that addresses the implementation of the many mandates given by the Assembly, the Medium-Term Strategy, and the Program of Work and Budget.

It is a well-established GRULAC position to request the working documents for these meetings at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled date, considering the needs of small delegations, as most GRULAC missions in Nairobi, to have enough time to review them and consolidate its national instructions, enabling a fruitful dialogue with you and the whole UNEP divisions.

We reiterate our strong support to the strengthening of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, as well as the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as the only United Nations headquarters duty station in the global South. We recognize the importance of fostering effective international environmental governance through multilateral processes and reaffirm the mandate of the CPR as stipulated in Governing Council decision 27/2 (paragraph 9), underlining its oversight role in the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions and decisions.

GRULAC welcomes the ED proposal for the appointment of the two co-chairs to facilitate the intergovernmental consultations on Nature-Based Solutions and Nitrogen Management to be coordinated by the Chair of the CPR, under the leadership of the President of the UNEA-6 - and express our readiness and support for their future consultations with regional and political groups in this regard. We value this approach as a step towards the inclusiveness and transparency GRULAC is always calling for. For us, it is essential that decisions relating to the implementation of any resolution be widely consulted with the entire membership, meaning a resource to seek guidance from member states and incorporate their views in the decision-making process.

As the most biodiverse region in the world, GRULAC welcomes the candidacy of Costa Rica through H.E. Ambassador Giovanna Valverde to co-preside on behalf of the developing countries the

implementation of UNEA resolution 5/5 on “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development.”

GRULAC applauds the significant steps taken to implement resolutions on the Future of GEO, the establishment of a Science-Policy Panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution, the INC on plastic pollution, and in the field of sustainable consumption and production. Nevertheless, we urge the Secretariat to provide a clear roadmap for the implementation of all UNEA resolutions.

GRULAC takes note of the significant developments presented in the region and encourages a regular dialogue between the permanent representatives and the regional director of the Program.

Finally, GRULAC wishes to comment on the charts regarding the overall regional representation within the Organization. Being an underrepresented region, GRULAC requires a clear roadmap to achieve the principle of equitable geographical distribution according to resolution 5/13.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.