

Honorable Minister, Y.E. Ms. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, President of the Assembly, Distinguished Chair of the CPR, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya Y.E. Pirka Tappiola, Dear Mme. UNEP's ED, members of the bureau of the CPR and the Assembly.

It is my honor to take the floor as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to UNEP.

At the outset, I would like to convey the apologies of my Minister of Environment, Honorable Susana Muhamad Gonzalez, who was unable to attend this invitation because she is currently in the process of building up Colombia's National Development Plan, which has a focus on domestic regional binding dialogues.

Before commenting on the proposed themes, I want to express our solidarity with the Government and the people of Pakistan for the terrible floodings they are currently experiencing.

Allow me now to share our initial thoughts and early reflections on the possible options for the theme of the Sixth Assembly and elements of analysis and discussion whether to support, complement or amend any of the 3 options presented so far:

- 1. Environmental multilateralism tailored to the future: towards healthy economies, healthy societies and a healthy planet.**
- 2. Towards the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.**
- 3. Multilateral solutions to climate change, loss of nature and pollution.**

I want to clarify that within the GRULAC we haven't had yet the opportunity to discuss this matter. We're planning to have the first exchange of views next Wednesday the 19th.

Colombia considers that the option 1 is the best formulated so far. For us, this option gathers a necessary and recurrent discussion in Nairobi, on the status of the Program and the measures for its strengthening, which come from paragraph 88 of *the "The Future We Want"*, but which for various reasons has not been possible to implement.

Having this in mind, we must be cautious of the scope and goals set up for the Assembly, to avoid going back to a recurrent misunderstanding among Member states which is the discussion on UNEP as a Program or an Agency in the United Nations system.

This theme covers the strengthening of its normative and operational mandates, its role of assistance for implementation and articulation with conventional frameworks, funding gaps and highlights the value of the science-policy interface. We also consider this topic to be highly relevant and timely, as political differences are hindering the construction of agreements and weakening the governance of international environmental issues. This issue would be a call from multilateralism to avoid politicizing this forum and the international environmental agenda.

Regarding option 2 about the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

We value this option to the extent that it increases concrete actions to address the environmental crisis: *“A strong foundation in environmental justice, grounded in science, can act as a catalyst for increased implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies”*.

For the environmentalist sector, citizen participation is vital in the construction of government strategies and guidelines. The communities of the regions, including indigenous and other minorities, are key to restoration processes and in plans to reduce deforestation. *“It can promote higher levels of public participation and engagement in environmental decision-making at national level with increased focus on risks and impacts related to poverty, conflict, and structural inequalities “*

This theme could also provide and be linked to the right of access to environmental information.

As I said Mme. Chair, Colombia has the commitment to convey what is discussed here to GRULAC and to the G77 and China, groups that we are currently chairing from Nairobi.

I thank you Mme. Chair.