

## **9th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

Agenda Item 9: Consultation on the theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

### Statement by Brazil

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As we come to the discussion on the theme for UNEA-6, we could look back on the decades of commitment and hard work that turned the United Nations Environment Programme into what is today: a driving force for the environmental agenda based in the Global South - a symbolism that we cannot overemphasize.

Celebrating those decades of hard work, during UNEP@50 we collectively decided to affirm the indispensable role of the United Nations Environment Assembly within the United Nations system as the intergovernmental decision-making body with universal membership. In other words, we were collectively praising the driving force of environmental multilateralism.

It was also the power of multilateralism that led, in 2015, to the universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. With the Sustainable Development Goals, we translated into clear targets and objectives the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. The 2030 Agenda is unprecedented in scope and transformative in nature.

It is with this with this history of multilateralism behind us, and bearing in mind the Sustainable Development Goals guiding us until 2030, that we would favor option 1, on providing a "Environmental multilateralism fit for the future".

Nevertheless, we propose to use more precise language, to give clear direction on what we envisage. In this context, we suggest modifications that would lead to the following theme: "Environmental multilateralism fit for the future: towards strong economies, inclusive societies and a resilient planet". We believe such a theme is both hopeful, respectful of our history and comprehensive of all the areas that we need to work on for the future we want.

Finally, I would like to thank the President of UNEA, Ms. Leila Benali, for the efforts in overseeing the consultations on this important topic. Still in line with the spirit of multilateralism, I would like to suggest that the retreat of the Joint Bureaus, which will take place in late January, instead of making a final decision, makes a recommendation for adoption by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. This procedure would be in accordance with the spirit of collegiality and transparency which has long been one of the hallmarks of the United Nations system.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.