

GRULAC STATEMENT

Committee of the Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Nairobi, January 19th, 2023

Dear Mme. Executive Director Inger Andersen,

Dear Chair of the CPR, Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Finland,

H.E. Mr Pirkka Tapiola

Excellencies,

Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), Nairobi chapter. Costa Rica takes this opportunity to thank the delegation of Colombia for their excellent work as the Chair of GRULAC during the last semester and announces that we will continue with the GRULAC Presidency during the first Semester of 2023 in Nairobi.

Moreover, GRULAC wishes to thank the Secretariat for preparing the working documents and for all the reports of the different divisions that inform this meeting that covers many topics of interest to GRULAC. The Group wants to convey its appreciation to Madam ED, for the hard work carried out for a successful and meaningful meeting of the subcommittee of the CPR.

Dear Chair, this session is particularly important as we will have the opportunity to discuss the critical issues of the Programme, and the definition of the theme for the Sixth UNEA, among other processes of extreme importance to the multilateral environmental arena.

Regarding the preparations for the OEWG-1.2 on SPP, GRULAC takes this opportunity to call for a process which aims to be consensual, amicable, and action-oriented and that strengthens multilateralism.

With regards to the outcomes of the INC-1 on plastic pollution, GRULAC takes this opportunity to thank the government of Uruguay for hosting this important meeting and appreciates the hard work carried out by the Plastics Secretariat to ensure such a successful event. GRULAC also thanks the support of all the INC membership for having elected our region to Chair the INC process, and in that regard, congratulates Ambassador Gustavo Meza Cuadra from Peru, for his election as Chair for INC-1, INC-2 and INC-3, and Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, from Ecuador, to be elected Chair as of December 2023, for the remaining of the process, including the Diplomatic Conference-

GRULAC also thanks the creation and improvement of the INC Webpage and the INC-1 meeting portal, which currently includes all the statements and essential information on the negotiation-process.

Furthermore, after holding regional consultations with the Focal Points on the INC-Plastics, the Group expressed their concern about the possibility of having a high-level segment in INC-2, considering it is still too early in the negotiation process together with the financial burden of mobilizing authorities. The possibility of holding a high-level segment after INC-3, i.e., during UNEA 6 or at the following INCs, was considered by our group-

On the topic of the role of the scientific community, there was strong support for assuring that the scientific community informs during the negotiation process and about its crucial role for the implementation of the Treaty. The possibility of having meetings with WTO and WHO was also highly valued and the suggestion of preparing a submission from GRULAC on the creation of a Scientific Committee was supported.

Concerning the report of the INC-1, there was support for the message to be reiterated to the Secretariat that this report should reflect the views of members and the flow of negotiations, and as per the final Statement of the region at the INC-1.

Regarding the deadline for submissions, some countries mentioned that the date for State submissions is still very tight and requested the members of the

Bureau to convey to the Secretariat the interest of getting an extension for this deadline. On the format, this should be reviewed as it is not very “user friendly”.

Finally, GRULAC strongly encourages member states and the Secretariat to provide financial assistance to developing countries to guarantee the participation of at least two delegates per country in the upcoming INC sessions.

Dear Chair,

GRULAC welcomes the report and outcomes of CITES COP19 hosted by the Government of Panama **from 14 – 25 November 2022** and which reflects on the positive impact of well-regulated trade on species conservation. The record-breaking 365 decisions that emanated from the CoP19 are evidence that CITES Parties agreed that they need to enforce measures that allow international trade to continue but only in a sustainable and legal ways to safeguard its benefits and existence for future generations. GRULAC welcomes the adoption of forty-six (46) listing proposals, which resulted in more than 500 species being included in the Appendices.

On behalf of GRULAC, with respect to the the consultations on the theme for UNEA-6, the Group wishes to thank the Honorable Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco as the President of the Sixth Assembly for her leadership and personal commitment to this important decision as well as H.E., the Ambassador of Morocco.

GRULAC supports the emphasis on the multilateral aspect, yet we consider we should be even more ambitious and refer explicitly to **actions and sustainability**. Time is short and actions are of the essence and urgency to tackle environmental challenges. Actions to be realized require means of implementation since there is no real ambition without the necessary means of implementation to achieve it. For GRULAC, there is a sense of urgency and the matter of sustainability and means of implementation-should also be further included in discussions and the concept note. Thus, GRULAC proposes that the theme reads as follows:

“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

Regarding the outcomes of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15), GRULAC welcomes the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework after more than three years of negotiation. With the new Global Biodiversity Framework, four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030 were approved, replacing the Aichi Targets.

Finally, GRULAC wishes to announce that our group participated with common visions on the issues related to the gender target (and the new Gender Plan of Action). Similarly, a commitment has been made by the CBD members under the Resources Mobilization strategy to mobilize at least US\$ 200 billion annually from public and private sources to finance the implementation of biodiversity-related plans and strategies and to increase total international financial flows from developed countries to developing countries to US\$ 20 billion annually by 2025 and US\$ 30 billion annually by 2030. This is of particular importance given that the target of conserving 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, is estimated to cost, by itself, around US\$ 150 billion annually. Finally, we would like to highlight the decision to establish a mechanism to share the benefits derived from the use of digital sequence information, which we deem crucial for the very existence of the third pillar of the Convention on access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

Dear Chair, GRULAC reiterates its full cooperation and commitment to UNEP’s work and will continue to play an active, constructive, and positive role.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.