

GRULAC STATEMENT

161 Committee of the Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Nairobi, March 9th, 2023

Dear Mme. Executive Director

Dear Chair of the CPR

Excellencies,

Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), Nairobi chapter.

(4. Report of the ED)

The Group welcomes the comprehensive briefing on the Annual Report 2022 and the ED's Quarterly Report that addresses all the relevant meetings of last year and the previous quarter of 2022 and the implementation of the many mandates given by the Assembly and the Program of Work and Budget.

At the outset, our Group wants to convey our appreciation to you, Mme. ED, and to your team, for the leadership and hard work carried out in 2022, a year of challenges but, on the other hand, with many successful results.

Regarding the Quarterly Report, GRULAC would like to highlight the work of the Bureau of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on October 2022 and the proposed workplan for 2022-2023. This Forum is vital for collaboration in our region as we discussed issues such as the INC-1 on plastics and ocean pollution, UNFCCC COP27, and CBD COP 15. There is also a proposal to create a Regional Oceans Commission, which has been well received.

Our region also has the Regional Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters, which was convened in compliance with decision I/6 of the First Conference of the Parties to the Escazu Agreement, held on April of 2022 in Santiago, Chile. During the First Annual Forum in Quito last November, the aim was to generate a platform for reflection and dialogue on the situation of Human Rights Defenders in

Environmental Matters in LAC, and it was agreed to prepare a report as an input to the development and revision of a plan of action for 2024.

Furthermore, we appreciate the work of UNEP in helping Latin America and the Caribbean to develop the Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2022-2025, which strengthens regional cooperation for clean air.

GRULAC welcomes the significant Developments in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), particularly the decision to establish and operationalize a loss and damage fund to support developing countries and communities at the frontlines of the climate crisis. Given the urgency on the ground, we urge the need that the fund must be operationalized as soon as possible, and the countries primarily responsible for warming our planet should immediately mobilize substantial new and additional resources to pay for climate-related damage in vulnerable countries.

We welcome the results of INC 1 as the first step for the internationally legally binding instrument by 2024 to end plastic pollution. Our region has sent the inputs for INC2, and we are actively preparing for INC2 in Paris next May.

Concerning the UNEP Quarterly Report on Gender Parity Status, GRULAC applauds the effort to continue working on this matter. We are on a positive trajectory toward full gender parity.

GRULAC considers it necessary to continue working for equitable geographical distribution. We would like to know more about the concrete work done by the human resources outreach strategy at all levels, and particularly to increase the organization's visibility as an employer of choice for young talent from underrepresented Member States and less-represented regional groups.

(5. Preparations for the 6th session of UNEA)

On the road ahead of the preparation of UNEA 6, GRULAC wants to thank Morocco for preparing a detailed draft for an inclusive, participatory and transparent consultation process on the draft ministerial declaration of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. We look forward to continuing to engage in this process to build a strong and balanced political declaration.

We recall the importance of having enough time for the intersessional period for the presentation and discussion of draft resolutions so that all delegations, including the smaller ones, can cope with the challenging workload ahead of us. In this context, the fact that the annual subcommittee is scheduled for the end of November means that we only have December and half of January for this work, seeing that the Assembly will be in February. This will not allow us to make use of the intersessional period properly and we will continue to replicate the mistakes from previous UNEAs.

(6. Implementation of paragraph 41(j) of the Chair's Summary of the 9th annual subcommittee meeting of CPR)

On the topic of the revised proposal on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 4 (j), GRULAC takes this opportunity to stress the importance of timely publication of the meeting documents.

Additionally, on recommendation five, regarding the chair's summary and the meeting report to reflect consensual conclusions or recommendations, there should be a clear process, even if it is simple, but transparent, to define consensual conclusions or recommendations. This process could be that by the end of each session, the chair asks the room about those recommendations and concisely summarizes what has been agreed upon to avoid confusion and to reflect the consensus agreed by Member states. Overall, the Group considers it would be helpful if all decisions and recommendations were moved to a more formal process, which we all could follow-up.

I thank you, Madame Chair.