

Thank you Chair for the opportunity to take the floor.

Colombia celebrates the results of the intergovernmental consultations held on the implementation of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 5/12 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management, appreciates the hospitality and significant work of Chile in relation to the consultations of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States -GRULAC- and congratulates the elaborate Summary Report of the Global Intergovernmental Meeting prepared by the Co-chairs.

In this regard, Colombia wants to emphasize the importance of some issues that were discussed during the GRULAC consultation and included in item 8 of the co-chairs' report on the non-prescriptive proposals (NPPs):

1. Supporting actions to increase sustainability in the informal and small-scale mining sector is a priority. This particular issue demands specific attention as this type of mining is often carried out in regions inhabited by indigenous and afrodescendant people, and local communities. The workers engaged in this type of mining often lack safety measures, which can have adverse effects on their health, surrounding communities and the ecosystems. This type of mining also tends to occur in areas of high biodiversity.

These impacts have disproportionately affected historically discriminated populations (indigenous and afrodescendant people, women, small farmers), and policymakers should consider the intersection of environmental, racial and gender justice guaranteeing the adequate participation of these groups and the allocation of specific resources to their communities living in critical ecosystems where the impacts of unsustainable mining are causing severe damage.

This issue is related to item 8 a): Cross-cutting issues relevant to all or multiple NPPs, of the report, about the call to enhance the relevance of technical assistance, financial support, and technology transfer for developing countries. Furthermore, with the need to consider the intersection between resolution 5/12, with human rights and with the importance of meaningful community engagement and 'free, prior and informed consent' in all processes.

The implementation of the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean is expected to provide a new framework for progress in these matters in the country and the region.

- 2- Another issue addressed in the report (item 8, Cluster B: Value Chain Aspects, points 7 and 8), is the need to rehabilitate closed or abandoned mine sites and manage tailings. The issue is of particular concern and emphasized in Colombia's new legislation on environmental legacies, which aims to minimize risks to life, health, and the environment. The legislation requires formulating a public policy and intervention plans for rehabilitating, remedying, or restoring areas with environmental risks. It also emphasizes the importance of exchanging knowledge and cooperation on this topic, as well as establishing mine closure criteria and environmental, social, and economic guidelines based on indicators. These measures are fundamental for the country.

Mr/Mme Chair. In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that Colombia is deeply committed to multilateral action as the necessary approach to address the challenges posed by climate change and energy transition, which are directly linked to the

sustainable management of minerals and metals, stressing that the just energy transition should be based on the implementation of renewable energy.

Thank you.