

**10 Meeting of the Annual Subcommittee  
Committee of Permanent Representatives**

**GRULAC Opening Statement**

Argentina proudly delivers this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). The Group extends its deepest gratitude to the Chair, the esteemed members of the Bureau, and the dedicated staff of the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this meeting. Your work has not only facilitated a platform for constructive dialogue but has also underscored the commitment of the CPR to address pressing environmental concerns.

This meeting is significant for the GRULAC region, as it provides an invaluable opportunity to engage in discussions that are pivotal for the sustainable future of our planet. The Latin American and Caribbean region, characterized by its rich biodiversity and unique environmental challenges, deeply values the importance of this forum in shaping policies that reflect its collective aspirations for a healthier, more sustainable world and recognizes the role of UNEP in fostering global collaboration for environmental preservation and sustainable development.

Regarding the agenda of this meeting, GRULAC notes with great interest several key topics that resonate strongly with its priorities and would like to focus on four items:

Firstly, on the Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 of UNEP, GRULAC highlights that the review of UNEP thematic programmes is crucial for the region, to align UNEP's work with the GRULAC's priorities. The evaluation of these programmes will provide insights into their effectiveness and areas for improvement, particularly in addressing the unique environmental challenges faced by the Latin American and Caribbean region. GRULAC is particularly interested in how these programmes support its efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change adaptation, and sustainable resource management.

Secondly, the discussion on UNEP's management and administration, including the update on the creation of the division on climate change, is of significant interest to GRULAC. Effective management strategies are essential for UNEP's success in driving environmental policy and action globally. GRULAC places high importance on the

administration's transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness to the needs of diverse regions. GRULAC calls for increased geographical balance among UNEP's staff at all levels and more efficient use of resources, in particular for implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in all developing countries.

Thirdly, GRULAC commends the progressive steps toward the 6th United Nations Environmental Assembly, particularly emphasizing its support to a UNEA that advances multilateral environmental discussions and fosters effective national-level implementation. GRULAC advocates for equitable participation, urging UNEP to ensure funding for participation of at least two delegates from all developing countries. GRULAC commits itself to actively contribute in shaping the Ministerial Declaration and all draft resolutions presented by Member States, focusing on the environmental challenges that affect the region.

Fourthly, the deliberations on the scheduling of future UNEA sessions and their impact on strategic and budgetary planning are pivotal. The outcomes will guide the development of UNEA-6 decisions, shaping the agenda for UNEA-7, and influencing the next Medium-term Strategy and Programme of Work and Budget of UNEP. For GRULAC, these discussions offer an opportunity to ensure that the region's priorities, including sustainable development and environmental justice, are adequately represented and addressed in UNEP's future strategies and actions.

In conclusion, GRULAC remains steadfast in its dedication to advancing the principles of environmental stewardship and sustainable development and is committed to working collaboratively with all Member States to address the complex environmental challenges of our time. GRULAC looks forward to productive discussions and meaningful outcomes from this meeting.

Thank you.