

Statements by Colombia on Agenda item 3.a) Review of UNEP thematic programmes in the UNEP Programme of Work.

- Presentation C: Towards a Pollution Free Planet -

Since this is the first time for us taking the floor, we seize this occasion to thank the Secretariat for compiling and presenting us with such wealth of information on the implementation of the Programme of Work.

We celebrate the milestones that have been achieved in the past year to tackle the planetary crisis of pollution, including the adoption of UNGA Resolution 77/161 on zero waste, which we cosponsored, the observance of the International Day of Zero Waste and the Istanbul meeting of the Advisory Board established by the resolution. We also rejoice in the adoption of the new “Global Framework for Chemicals”. Furthermore we have joined the observance of the World Environment Day, with a focus on solutions for plastic pollution and have taken active part in the three sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the International Legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution, with a strong focus on the use of the best available science for decision-making, both as a principle that must be enshrined in the instrument itself, as well as a guidance for our approach to the negotiation. While we did not agree last week on a mandate for intersessional work of a technical expert-driven nature, we will continue to support UNEP’s work in the collation of relevant data for policy-makers.

We thank the UNEP Secretariat for their support in our internal process to review and operationalize our adherence to the New Plastic Economy Global Commitment.

Specifically on the area of zero waste, we wish to advance the following remarks and questions:

1. We welcome the references to the synergistic work between UNEP and UN-Habitat, in particular in relation to zero waste. This cooperation must also be translated into the interface with local authorities. In the looking ahead section of the presentation, for example, we wish to bring to the attention of the Secretariat that waste management interventions may require a dialogue beyond the Ministries of Environment, and include authorities in charge of urban planning and development and public services.
2. We would appreciate if you could elaborate a bit further on the work that has been undertaken, as well as interventions and activities that have been supported, focusing on sustainable consumption and the role of consumers in the generation and management of waste.
3. On the nexus between gender and pollution, we welcome the material produced on gender and waste management, with a sectoral focus. As we move forward in the negotiations of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, we would welcome any guidance from UNEP on the nexus between gender and plastic pollution, beyond waste management, and with a lifecycle approach so as to understand better the opportunities of gender-responsive interventions throughout the value chain of plastics.

Thank you very much.
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- *Presentation D: Science for Policy and Action* -

We thank the information on the UNEP supportive role for the different panels and platforms on the interface between science and policy. We would like to know more about how you plan to achieve synergies between IPCC, IPBES, GEO7 process and SPP once operational.

One of the identified risks as regards science for policy and action is precisely the uptake and ownership by policy makers of best available science. We understand that this is partly addressed by the governance that was established for the GEO7, including the advisory role of the IMAG and MESAG. What are the plans to mitigate this risk and support science uptake by policymakers?

We have advocated for the inclusion of different knowledge systems into the process of GEO7 and would appreciate if you could elaborate how the division engages systematically with other knowledge systems, including the traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, knowledge of People of African Descent and knowledge of local communities.

Statement by Colombia on Agenda item 4.b) UNEA sessions and related consequences for UNEP's Medium-Term Strategies and Programmes of Work and Budget.

Thank you very much to the Secretariat for the information and the options presented which we have had the opportunity to discuss already in previous meetings.

As has been expressed by other delegations, Colombia is still reviewing the consequences of all three options and the cost/benefit analysis conducted by the Secretariat.

For some of the options, misalignment with QCPR periodicity and with the Umoja budget period structure has been highlighted. Beyond the evident practical inconvenience that this might engender, we would like for the Secretariat to elaborate further on the possible administrative and legal consequences that might come with this misalignment and whether they would imply that further down the line, UNEA would have to revert back to the odd-year cycle.

On option 3, we would also benefit from additional options on the scheduling of UNEA-7 in the second semester of 2025, taking into account possible conflicts with the conferences of the parties of other important MEAs.

Statement by Colombia on Agenda item 4.c) Announcements of possible draft resolutions and decisions for UNEA-6.

As has been expressed by other delegations, Colombia considers that the adoption of resolutions in UNEA-6 has to follow a rational approach, limiting the number of resolutions to those that:

1. Have a clear link to the theme of the Assembly and the overall mandate of UNEP.
2. Entail an added value to the current work of UNEP, as well as synergies with other MEA's and existing initiatives, instruments, frameworks and bodies, and avoid duplication of efforts.
3. Are implementable and that their results can be monitored systematically.

We have heard with keen interest the proposals presented today by other delegations and look forward to their respective concept notes in order to review how we can engage with each one of these endeavours. At the same time, we join those calls for the negotiation process to take into account the limited capacity of smaller delegations to follow simultaneous consultations and drafting exercises.

We commend the rollout of the UNEA monitoring and reporting portal and would invite proponents to conceive and draft resolutions bearing in mind such efforts for a more harmonized monitoring of implementation, both regarding mandates to the Executive Director and Member State actions.