

## COMMENTS MADE BY COLOMBIA DURING THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE UNEA6 MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Thank you, Mr Chair, for giving me the floor. As this is the first time we have taken the floor, Colombia appreciates the opportunity to discuss this draft Ministerial Declaration, paragraph by paragraph.

1. On paragraph 9, we would like to point out that on the second to last line, it should say “as well as” and we would insist on referring to “ALL” women and girls so as to capture women in all their diversity (including peasant women, indigenous women, women from local communities, which in Colombia include African descendant, black, raizal and palenquera women, as well as LBT people (lesbians, bisexual and trans)).

Furthermore, at the beginning of the paragraph, we would call for the inclusion of gender-responsive actions, together with effective, inclusive sustainable transformative, intra- and inter-generational and science- and knowledge-based actions.

2. On the new paragraph 10, we would insist on the relevance of taking into account the whole of Rio Principles, as they, in their entirety are relevant for the implementation of all actions listed under this paragraph.
3. On paragraph 10.b, we insist that at the end of the first sentence, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits should apply to the **utilization of genetic resources**, including **digital sequence information and** traditional knowledge. This is relevant not just in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity but also in the context of the new instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
4. On paragraph 10.c, kindly emphasize that the just and sustainable energy transition should be based on the implementation of renewable energies, thusly:

Cooperate for a just and sustainable energy transition that seeks to achieve an energy-secure future for all, **through renewable energies**, while respecting local, national and regional needs and priorities, and define clear actions to address climate change, including a progressive phase-out of fossil fuels, considering the social and economic opportunities of climate action, avoiding negative impacts on the environment and natural resources and promoting effective social dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders.

5. We want to propose an additional paragraph after paragraph 10h) stating:

**Recognise that the global environmental crises disproportionately affect historically discriminated populations (such as Indigenous Peoples, People of African descent, women and peasants) and that policy makers need to consider the intersection of**

environmental, climate and social justice, as well as gender and race issues, and work together to ensure the adequate participation of these groups and the allocation of specific resources to those communities, living in critical areas where the impacts of the planetary crises are causing severe damage.

6. While Colombia has consistently proposed a new paragraph that calls for a reform of the global financial architecture, in the spirit of contributing to a concise ministerial declaration, we suggest adding its spirit to para. 13, thusly:

We call upon Member States, International Financial Institutions, international development banks, private foundations, philanthropies, funds and other actors to promote further synergies and coherence in financing action to address the three environmental planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, aligning relevant policy and regulatory measures with international goals and targets to provide incentives and an enabling fiscal and policy framework for resource mobilization, as echoed at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank 2023 annual meeting held in Marrakech. We will engage domestic, international, and private sector actors towards a rapid mobilization and scaling of accessible means of implementation, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, while welcoming ongoing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, including **by creating the fiscal space for developing countries to finance climate action and to fulfil the realization of the SDGs and by** reshaping economic governance models and decision-making to better account for the environment in measuring progress beyond gross domestic product.

7. On the new paragraph 15, we would call for the inclusion of a reference to UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, as it provides support for regional sea conventions and action plans, and to the overall achievement of SDG 14. This is particularly timely in the lead-up to the Third UN Ocean Conference co-chaired by France and Costa Rica.

We note the increasing necessity and catalytic role of UNEP and its Regional Offices in strengthening regional cooperation, including through the Regional Ministerial fora **and UNEP's Regional Seas Programme**, to tackle context-specific environmental challenges. We also recognize the increasing demand for synergetic environmental support at the country level and UNEP's engagement with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to support mainstreaming of environmental issues into planning, programming and operations, and including the environmental dimension of sustainable development in Common Country Analyses and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and invite the strengthening of UNEP's role within the UN Development System at the regional and country level, with increase in resources, including from the regular budget.

On cross-cutting matters, Colombia supports retaining the mention of global environmental crises, as already agreed in the ministerial declaration of UNEA 5 in its paragraph 26: *"26. We call for the decisive, adequate and coherent implementation of*

*the actions and commitments contained in resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session, as well as in the outcome documents of previous sessions of the Environment Assembly, **addressing the triple crises for our common environment – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.** We recognize our role, as ministers for the environment, in following up on these commitments within our own Governments, contributing to coordinated action across sectors and levels of government and promoting effective implementation.”*

Colombia also supports maintaining the mention and efforts towards the realization of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. Furthermore, we need to consider the intersection between the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment with other human rights. The Ministerial declaration of UNEA 5 stated: “**We recognize that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights and for sustainable development in all its dimensions,** and that the well-being of humanity depends on nature and hence on our ability to sustainably use, restore and protect the ecosystem services that it provides for poverty eradication, resilience, our health, our economies and ultimately our existence.”