

164th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

25 January 2024

6. Report of the Executive Director to the 164th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

- Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor. It is a pleasure to address this Plenary after the inspiring report from the Executive Director, with the recent achievements in environmental multilateralism, which paved the way to UNEA-6.
- Among the topics raised in the report for this session, I would like to call the attention to the new Global Framework on Chemicals, which had been in negotiation for many years, and we hope will guide the actions of countries and stakeholders in this area.
- We also would like to refer to the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) – which was approved by the GEF Council, in a meeting held in Brasilia, last June, and launched at the GEF Assembly last August in Vancouver.
- We are glad to say that, as a result of a proposal by Brazil together with other partners from the Latin American and Caribbean Region, the GEF assembly also adopted the target of allocating 20% of the resources from GBF Fund for actions in indigenous territories.
- We believe this has been a major step forward and we urge all Parties, and in particular donor countries, to make all necessary efforts to ensure this goal is achieved. We cannot underscore enough the role of indigenous peoples as guardians of biodiversity.
- I also would like to take the opportunity to address important developments in our region. Last August, Brazil hosted the Amazonian Summit, which counted with the participation of UNEP. It resulted in the adoption of the Belém Declaration, which establishes a new cooperation agenda to advance sustainable development in the Amazon.
- In addition to the Amazon Countries, we were also honoured to count with the participation of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and the Republic of Congo. Together, we adopted the joint communiqué United for Our Forests, which reaffirmed our commitment to forest preservation, reducing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, conserving and valuing biodiversity, and

pursuing a just ecological transition. Since then, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mexico and Sri Lanka have also joined us in the Communiqué.

- Mr. Chair, these are not only declarations. We are doing our part in the fight against environmental challenges. Last year, Brazil observed a reduction in deforestation by 49.5%—which was on a frightening upward trend—, thus avoiding the release of 250 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere.
- However, it is still important to underline the need for enhanced cooperation at a time where we face persistent inequalities between and within countries. Adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial and technological resources are an indispensable component of international agreements and commitments on the environment and are essential to enable their achievement. Such commitments need to be translated into reality.
- We hope to see this enhanced cooperation for next UNEA. We are certain that the momentum acquired in recent international meetings will translate itself in, once again, strengthening the role of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda at the upcoming Assembly. We are glad to say that Brazil has fully paid its contributions to the United Nations regular budget in 2023 and it is our hope that the Organization will overcome this liquidity crisis.
- As a final point, I would like to address the topic raised in the quarterly report on gender parity and equitable geographic distribution in UNEP's staff.
- In this context, we are glad to see the overall gender parity status at UNEP. We believe the Programme would be even stronger if gender parity were to be achieved with equitable geographic distribution. We understand the efforts in this direction and, knowing that the expertise exists in different parts of the world, look forward to the building a diverse UNEP.