

166th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Delegation of Costa Rica

Thursday, June 13th

Item 5 - Report of the Executive Director to the 166th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Thank you, Mr. Chair for giving me the floor.

Costa Rica wishes to thank you mister chair and the Secretariat for the work and preparation for the 166th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

In relation to the Quarterly Report presented by madam Executive Director, we thank her for its presentation to the Member States. As in previous occasions, we would like to commend her dedication and commitment in the implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work.

My Delegation would like to comment on some sections that we consider key for the purposes of this reporting exercise.

With regard to UNEA6, we wish to recognize the excellent outcome, in particular the adoption of 15 resolutions, which include UNEP/EA.6/Res.15 - Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution, presented by Costa Rica and the EU. We look forward to beginning the work on its implementation as reflected during the High-level Event which took place in CRI last June 7th and 8th, whereby together with France we are co/chairing the UNOC3.

We welcome UNEP's in-depth contributions to regional and global processes, in particular the ones leading to the Summit of the Future and the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. On the former, we underscore the submission of UNEA6 Ministerial Declaration to the General Assembly, and the provision of inputs to the Declaration on Future Generations. On the latter, we recognize the extensive support to the ongoing negotiations through a specific Secretariat.

Further, we welcome the launch of the Food Waste Index Report 2024, with the latest global estimates on food waste occurring at retail and consumer level. In the fight against food loss and waste, which sadly accounts for one-third of all food produced, the index will complement other UN agencies' tools such as the Voluntary Code on Food Loss and Waste.

Costa Rica would also like to highlight UNEP's enhanced role within the Quadripartite Organizations and its vow to accelerate the implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action. The Programme's track record and expertise is positively impacting all the action tracks, in particular the sixth: *Integrating the environment into One Health*.

We appreciate the efforts carried out in order to better understand ICT-facilitated crimes, and look forward to hosting future trainings in Costa Rica.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation very much understands and respects that this is a report from the Executive Director to the CPR, and that it is not subject to changes from our side. Nevertheless, we would like to suggest that, for future endeavours, it refers to the "Repositioning of the United Nations Development System" instead of "UN reform", as the former is clearer.

With regard to resources and management issues, we take note of the significant gap in the first quarter for the Annual budget 2024 vs income and trust the latter will flow swiftly into the Environment Fund, the Earmarked Funds and the Global Funds to ensure the adequate implementation of the work programme for 2024. We would also like to thank all members states and top contributors for their vital financial support in particular for the 2024 Core Budgets for the Programme of work budget.

In relation to Human Resources, we commend the efforts to achieve gender parity for professional and above levels and encourage UNEP to continue the work in that direction.

However, on the geographical balance, Costa Rica regrets that nationals from Latin America and the Caribbean Member States account for only 9 percent of UNEP overall staff, and 10 percent for professional and above levels. Improvement from the report presented to the 164th meeting of this Committee has been marginal, and we urge the Secretariat to take measures to foster achievement of balance; targeted talent outreach events are an important tool, but should not be limited to young talent.

In closing, as my tour of duty in Kenya has come to an end, I address you for the last time at this CPR meeting. After eight years abroad, it is time to return to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Costa Rica to continue my unwavering commitment to the environmental agenda. It has been an immense honour to serve as the Ambassador of Costa Rica and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN Habitat. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my colleagues, the Executive Director, and the Secretariat for the shared journey and invaluable support which allowed for the completion of projects, events, resolutions and negotiations. I leave with a deep sense of pride and appreciation for the work we have achieved, and I am confident that you will continue to drive meaningful change in the years to come. Our Mission to UN will be left in the skilled hands of Mr. Luis Fernando Ceciliano, a career diplomat well experienced in multilateralism, as our DPR and chargé d'affaires. He is ready to work jointly for a strengthened UNEP.

Thank you very much, Mr Chair.