

**11th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives
Item 5, b): Consultation on the theme for the seventh session of the United
Nations Environment Assembly**

Colombia's Statement

Regarding agenda item 5, subsection b) concerning the consultation on the theme for UNEA 7, our delegation welcomes the work undertaken by the CPR bureau and the secretariat.

In relation to the proposed themes, we consider that Theme 2: *"Accelerating just transitions for people and planet"* is the most relevant to achieve the goal of providing UNEP with renewed mandates to focus on enabling conditions and emerging environmental issues. This theme is essential for accelerating the realization of multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This is because several scientific panels and platforms, as well as the academia, have emphasized the urgent need for transformative changes and the promotion of transitions towards resilient and environmentally sustainable economies and societies. These changes are crucial to achieving the environmental goals, targets and commitments needed to halt and reverse environmental degradation.

However, this can only be achieved with criteria of equity, inclusion, environmental justice, and the protection of environmental defenders.

Exploring the concept of a "just transition" and expanding it to identify its implications for the implementation of international environmental treaties, while considering its economic, social, and cultural impacts, as well as its effects on the international financial system, particularly the debt of developing countries, requires significant attention.

Furthermore, it is imperative to identify the right combination of levers and key leverage points identified by IPBES, that can generate transformative change, and the pathways to achieve this transition, with a focus on a rights-based approach and environmental justice, taking into account, inter alia, racial, ethnic, and gender factors.

Thank you.