

**Committee of Permanent Representatives -CPR-, Subcommittee meeting
Agenda Item 3. Briefing on the global foresight report on planetary health
and wellbeing, September 10th 2024**

Colombia's Statement

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me the floor. Our delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for this briefing and welcomes and commends the collaborative effort undertaken by UNEP and the International Science Council in preparing this report.

We believe that it is very important to advance possible responses that anticipate environmental damage caused by global environmental challenges, rather than simply reacting to damage that has already occurred and focusing exclusively on restoration or remediation, which is always less cost-effective.

Scenarios of uncertainty and emerging challenges require urgent responses to avoid significant negative impacts on planetary health and human well-being, which are closely interconnected.

Several scientific reports have already outlined scenarios in which environmental management must be addressed in complex, changing contexts, with unknown interrelated effects and unexpected interactions. These interactions go beyond traditional scientific, regulatory, institutional and management responses and require changes if we are to continue to live on a relatively safe planet.

The report presented today complements existing reports and provides key elements that require action, where UNEP and the UN system can play a leading role in catalysing the international action needed to move forward at the pace required.

To achieve this, however, adjustments must be made to enable timely responses to the key messages of this report. Four of which we would like to highlight. These are messages 7, 8, 9 and 10 namely:

- To effectively address the critical shifts and signals of change outlined in Foresight, the world needs a new social contract and an increase in societal resilience that engages a broader and more diverse range of stakeholders.
- Agile and adaptive governance, to be able to change more quickly when policies do not have the desired effect.
- Guiding governance through integrating data and knowledge and making it accessible for those who need it when they need it. Supporting agile and adaptive governance depends on monitoring and assessing the impacts of innovation, experimentation and systems that enable information to guide investments and actions.
- Adopting such a forward-looking, agile approach that identifies emerging risks is essential to shaping more effective policies and decisions for a better future.

These key messages require the creation of space to promote the concept of adaptive governance, where the organisational forms of institutions do not become inflexible constraints that prevent a learning attitude from experience and the management of unplanned risks.

In this sense, the most important part of the presentation is how UNEP is preparing to integrate these messages into its work and how the Medium Term Strategy 2026-2029 will address them. The CPR has an important role to play in facilitating or hindering this process towards adaptive governance.

Many reports identify the risks and negative impacts that the planet will face, but the gap between the response and the slowness of institutions to change stands in the way of true adaptive governance.