



167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP

Item 4 *Report of the Executive Director to the 167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.*

Delivered by Luis Fernando Ceciliano, Chargé d'Affaires *a.i.* and Deputy Permanent Representative

12 September 2024

Thank you very much, Mr Chair and further thanks to the Executive Director for the preparation and presentation of the document under Agenda Item 4.

Costa Rica aligns itself with the precedent statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of G77& China, and Brazil on behalf of GRULAC.

Overall, we appreciate the progress made by UNEP in terms of its global and regional outreach. The celebrations of the World Environment Day, which highlighted the need to accelerate progress in protecting 30 percent of land and sea, and restoring 30 percent of degraded ecosystems, together with the increasing numbers of cities -six of them in Latin America and the Caribbean- formally committed to restoration through nature-based solutions, should be a source of pride and hope.

We appreciate the developments on a number of issues of particular interest for Costa Rica, for instance, the relationship between SDG16 and the environment and its synergies with SDGs 1, 2 and 17; early preparedness for ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement; self-determination of Indigenous Peoples; as well as mainstreaming gender in climate change and disaster risk reduction.

With regard to the implementation of the current Programme of Work, we are pleased with the efforts carried out by the UNEP Financial Initiative across the strategic objectives and the founding and enabling subprogrammes. Although it would be desirable that the funding provided by the global financial sector not be earmarked, we recognize the value of tools such as the climate landscape report, measurement of investments' impact on climate adaptation, fuel subsidy reforms, engagement with the financial sector on plastics, and sustainable finance taxonomies, among others.

Moreover, we commend the actions deployed in our region on circular economy, and sustainable consumption and production. Likewise, we support the work on digital technologies to manage environmental and natural resource risks and opportunities for peacebuilding.

In relation to cross-cutting issues, in particular the repositioning of the UN development system, we would like to receive more information on the reported decrease in uptake of NDCs, NBSAPs and MEAs by UN entities, as well as how the triple planetary crisis is being integrated in the work of the UN development system.

Further, we stress the importance of the ongoing tasks on climate resilient housing and the role that cities play in transitioning to an equitable, sustainable and liveable world. In this regard, we request the Secretariat to inform us on the role that synergies with UN-Habitat are playing on this matter.

In relation to the Programme's financial situation, we thank the detailed information and would like to ask a question: how does UNEP account for in-kind contributions? As they constitute an important pool of resources, we wonder if there is an established system or criteria to register them in monetary terms.

Finally, we note the slow but steady progress in achieving staff geographical balance and encourage enhanced efforts in this respect. Regarding the outreach events, we would like to receive clarifications on the existence of knowledge gaps about the application processes and the profiles sought by UNEP and their divergence with actual procedures and selection criteria in place.

Thank you very much.