

167th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

12 September 2024

Regional Statement of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries

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

Mr. Chair,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).

Our Group would like to express its gratitude to the Secretariat for the quarterly report prepared for this meeting, which allows us to continue reviewing and identifying ways of supporting the Program's performance. We are encouraged by what has been accomplished in the fields of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste, as well as under the foundational and enabling subprogrammes.

On pollution, we continue to support an ambitious outcome in the process of negotiating an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, as set out in resolution UNEA 5/14. We believe the intersessional work, that just took place in Bangkok last month, has brought us a step further in our ambition of completing our task by the end of 2024.

Furthermore, in line with UNEA Resolution 5/8, our region would like to express our support for the ongoing efforts to establish a Science-Policy Panel to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Mr. Chair,

As one of the most biodiverse regions of the world, we remain deeply committed in our national efforts to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and their derivatives, including digital.

With that in mind, our Group remains concerned about the difficulty of mobilizing finance for biodiversity, as well as pollution and waste, which was confirmed by the exchanges during the last Programme Performance Review of the 11th Annual Subcommittee meeting. Therefore, we would appreciate information on steps taken or possibilities identified by UNEP on mobilization of resources and, in particular, on

the provision of finance to developing countries in these areas – which should not be lagging behind.

On climate change, which will be further analyzed in depth under agenda item 6, we are glad to see the confirmation of the importance of the Programme's work, including through its flagship reports, by the Evaluation of the UNEP Subprogramme on Climate Action, 2014-2023. We look forward to discussing the recommendations on how to improve it.

Our Group also would like to express its satisfaction for the attention given to desertification, land degradation and drought, whose dramatic effects demand urgent action, including addressing the causes of these environmental problems. In this context, we would like to commend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UNEP for successfully hosting the World Environment Day 2024 and bringing visibility to this topic.

Finally, on human resources, GRULAC appreciates the ED's efforts to achieve gender parity and equitable regional representation among UNEP's staff, particularly the recent two in-person events targeted to nationals from the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

During the last Annual Subcommittee Meeting, we expressed our regret that our region had seen the smallest increase in staff compared to others. In response, we were informed on the lack of potential applicants and even personal reasons for not taking up positions. Moving forward, we would like to be informed if the efforts are leading to a rise in applications in order to adequately measure progress.