



**167th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP**

*Item 5 Development of a medium-term strategy for the period 2026-2029 and a draft programme of work and budget for the period 2026-2027*

Delivered by Luis Fernando Ceciliano, Chargé d'Affaires *a.i.* and Deputy Permanent Representative  
12 September 2024

---

Thank you very much, Mr Chair

Let us thank the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the document under Agenda Item 5.

We align ourselves with the precedent statements delivered by Egypt on behalf of G77& China, and Brazil on behalf of GRULAC.

Costa Rica welcomes UNEP's proposal to prepare the forthcoming Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) building on the current one and its key pillars, but also integrating desertification and land degradation. Moreover, we would like to underscore UNEP's commitment to openness, transparency and inclusiveness in its development and acknowledge the timely integration of guidance from the 11th Annual Subcommittee meeting in terms of lessons learned from evaluations. Further, we highlight the increased visibility of regional fora and the intention to better align the Strategy with the multilateral environment agreements.

In relation to the consultation plan, in principle, we can agree with the Secretariat's proposal. In particular, we appreciate that virtual dialogues with Member States have been already announced, providing sufficient time for arrangements with our capitals. Nevertheless, Costa Rica cannot concur with the "informal endorsement" proposal after the 12th Annual Subcommittee. Firstly, the term "informal" brings confusion to the process and secondly, submitting the draft document to UNON for edition and advance translation purposes is a managerial task that does not require any permission from UNEP governing bodies. Moreover, it is important to underline that the MTS will be considered, not necessarily endorsed, by this Committee at its 171st meeting, so it might still be subject to modifications. The same rationale, indeed, will apply once it reaches UNEA7.

On the Programme of Work, we very much agree with the proposal to strengthen partnerships. With only a few years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, we do not foresee a way to do it without partners and while we understand the Secretariat's motivation to focus on the UN system, we find value in deepening the scope and consider a broader base, in particular the private sector and foundations.

We welcome the intention to advance gender equality. In this regard, we call on UNEP's due attention to the results of the Evaluation Synthesis Report 2022-2023 and, especially, 2020 MOPAN Assessment Report, from which I quote: "UNEP has made greater progress in achieving a gender balance internally than in the result of its projects".

Finally, Mr Chair, we appreciate UNEP's self-awareness on the need to keep balance between normative and development work and would like to suggest that, for the first draft of the MTS and the PW, the evaluation and audit-related inputs annex be presented in chronological order, and the compilation of lessons learned annex provide more detailed references to the sources; perhaps a hyperlink or a footnote leading directly to the source could be useful.

Thank you very much.