

## **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 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**

Mr. Chair,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (GRULAC). Our Group appreciates the elaboration of a new Draft Roadmap for the Development of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work for 2026-2027.

We are pleased to see that the consultations with Member States start with the strategic narrative, allowing us to take this important step together, and welcome the fact that it envisages consultations during the intersessional period. We believe the roadmap should allow for flexibility and additional meetings at the Subcommittee level between March and September, to ensure a smooth process.

We recall paragraph 9 of UNEA Decision b/6/7, which requested the ED to develop the draft MTS “fully taking into account the views of Member States and making every effort to reflect consensual views”. We expect these requests to be reflected throughout the process envisaged in the roadmap, as well in the final draft presented by the ED for consideration of UNEA-7.

On the recommendations and findings from evaluations, we note that some echo the view expressed by the Group during ASC-11 on the need to incorporate the social and economic dimensions of developing countries in the new MTS.

Similarly, we would like to express our full support for the recommendation to incorporate also a people-oriented approach and a social development perspective as part of UNEP’s global strategy, including support to poverty eradication and related social and economic development issues in terms of their relation to the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the MTS and POW for the period 2022 and beyond. We also believe this as an opportunity to build on the experience of other UN agencies and programmes with mandates on social development and poverty eradication, and to find areas of cooperation and complementarity with them.

In our view, this further acknowledges that global environmental challenges disproportionately affect historically marginalized populations, such as Indigenous Peoples, People of African descent, women, and peasants, among others.

In addition, we consider it of utmost importance to address the recommendation made in the 2022-2023 Evaluation Synthesis Report on UNEP's foundational subprogram on environmental governance to define clear strategic priorities and more specific outcomes.