

**REMARKS BY AMB. ERASMO MARTINEZ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MEXICO TO UNEP, AT THE 4TH ANNUAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES**

March 6, 2017

H.E. Julia Pataki, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;

Distinguished Permanent Representatives and delegates;

Madam Chair,

First of all, I would like to commend your work as Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing the way for the Third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the early definition of certain aspects such as the theme, structure and substantive content.

The work of the Subcommittee and the informal working group have shown the interest of many Member States in various substantive and procedural issues. It has also been evident that we must continue working together to ensure the success of UNEA-3.

Thus, an early definition of the title of the Assembly is required, although there is already a consensus among the membership on pollution as the central theme. For its part, the structure should foster an interactive exchange between ministers and senior officials, while allowing smaller delegations to be actively involved in all negotiations.

Madam Chair,

It is of the utmost importance for the Government of Mexico that the deliberations and results of this and future Assemblies be part of the overall process of achieving the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, UNEA's link to the High-level Political Forum is central and my delegation will -at all times- seek to ensure that the substantive content of the Assembly is aimed at providing timely and focused inputs for this purpose.

Madam Chair,

Procedural issues cannot be overlooked, since clarity about the rules of procedure is fundamental.

We are grateful for the presence of United Nations New York legal advisor and his assistance during the coming months, which will give delegations certainty on the way to and during December's Assembly.

In this sense, the question of translations and interpretation into the official languages of the United Nations should not be taken as a purely logistical or procedural matter. As emphasized by GRULAC and my delegation on numerous occasions, this is a way of ensuring the universality of UNEA and enabling all Member States to participate on an equal footing.

Madam Chair,

The Mexican delegation will have specific comments at various points on the agenda of this annual meeting of the Subcommittee, some of which have been submitted in writing for the consideration of other Member States.

You have the commitment of Mexico to ensure a fruitful process during this year.

Thank you very much.