

# Costa Rica



## MISIÓN ESPECIAL ANTE ONU AMBIENTE

## SPECIAL MISSION TO UN ENVIRONMENT

**Statement of the President of the UN Environment Assembly, H.E. Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez,  
Presented by the Costa Rican Ambassador on Special Mission to UN Environment  
H.E. Ms. Marta E. Juárez Ruiz**

**Presented at the Committee of Permanent Representatives' Subcommittee Meeting  
Held on Thursday 6 July 2017, at the United Nations Office in Nairobi**

**Statement on:  
Agenda Item 2 ("Preparations for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly"),  
Sub c ("Progress on the Ministerial Declaration")**

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Excellencies,

Representing the Presidency of the UN Environment Assembly, I would like to provide an update, to the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, following the successful joint meeting, of the Bureaux of both the UN Environment Assembly, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

This second preparatory retreat was held in June, in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, in preparation for the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly.

First of all, I would like to reaffirm, the importance of the UN Environment Assembly, as the leading global environmental authority, that addresses overarching environmental challenges, and provides environmental guidance on governmental policies, that should lead to achieving, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and its Sustainable Development Goals.

During this second preparatory retreat, of both Bureaux, held in Costa Rica, representatives reiterated their support, for a Ministerial Outcome Document.

They considered it, as the main result of the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly, in December 2017, here in Nairobi.

As we agreed, the overarching theme of this Third Session of the Assembly will be: “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet.”

Also, at the preparatory retreat in Costa Rica, the bureaux members agreed, on embracing Leadership Dialogue themes, affirmed the need for an Open Ended Committee, of Permanent Representatives, and a Committee of the Whole.

Also, it was discussed, how we can best engage with the Private Sector.

And also, bureaux members provided inputs to the Communications Strategy. The day before yesterday, on the fourth of July, a Zero Draft of the Ministerial Outcome Document, was released, and shared with Member States, for comments and inputs.

The deadline for sending comments and inputs, to the Secretary of Governing Bodies, is September Thirty.

This Zero Draft is broad, global and consensual.

It contains an aspirational goal and a call for action.

A call for action by governments, political groups, other stakeholders and citizens.

A call for action to reduce pollution and achieve a pollution free world.

The Costa Rican Presidency of the Assembly, considers, that we can only achieve this inspiring goal, if we work together, for a clean and healthy planet, both for the environment and for all people, leaving no one behind.

In this regard, we urge you, to provide your comments, to the Zero Draft, as we need your inputs and ideas, to further strengthen, the Ministerial Outcome Document, ready for adoption at the Assembly in December.

Especially, we request the Regional Groups, to take the lead, and gather inputs from members, both resident, and non-resident in Nairobi, in your respective regions.

Costa Rica believes that we, member states and stakeholders, must demonstrate, that the Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly, has the capacity, to speak to the world, with one voice, as the leading authority on environmental matters.

Therefore, we feel, that this Outcome Document, should be a game changer. It should influence, the behavior of billions of people, around the globe.

In this regard, we, governments, stakeholders, and world citizens alike, have a huge responsibility, that we should embrace jointly.

The Third Assembly and Ministerial Outcome Document, can and must be, the start of a global journey, towards a pollution-free planet!

Thank you very much!