



First informal substantive consultation meeting under the auspices of the CPR on UNGA Resolution 73/333

21-23 July 2020

Remarks by Brazil on Cluster 1 (Governance)

as delivered by Mr. Patrick Luna,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to UNEP

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

Thank you for giving me the floor. As we approach the cluster of issues related to governance, I would like to recall that the political declaration is an opportunity to recommit to and consolidate the institutional framework stemming from Rio+20. This framework was conceived to assist all of us in our efforts to fully achieve sustainable development, in its three dimensions.

The General Assembly and the High Level Political Forum are at the center of this framework. At the same time, this framework also describes UNEP (and, therefore, also UNEA) as "the leading global environmental authority", stressing its unique role in promoting coherence within the United Nations system in the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

I will now turn to some of the specific questions formulated by the co-facilitators regarding Recommendations 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 18 of Resolution 73/333,

As Brazil has been stating in other CPR-based debates, "the UNEP we want" is a Programme that is more equipped to assist Member States, upon request, to implement their environmental commitments. To strengthen and reaffirm UNEP's role as leading global authority requires, from our vantage point, more attention and resources to its

implementation mandate. It is critical to increase predictability of its resource provision, reducing its current high dependence on voluntary (and oftentimes earmarked) contributions.

As we discuss the enhancement of the role of UNEA, we should simultaneously reflect on how to further strengthen the Committee of Permanent Representatives, UNEA's intersessional body. Enhancing the participation of Member-States in decision-making would ensure that UNEP is even more responsive to the implementation needs of Member-States and could even lead to the enlargement of the financial resources made available to it.

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

The preparation of the political declaration is indeed an opportunity to reflect on new approaches on how to better coordinate the environmental agenda, so as to make the most of the synergies that may arise between UNEA and the different environmental agreements and avoid duplication of work.

One first suggestion would be to encourage that an increasing number of COPs and MOPs take place in Nairobi. Such an approach would further consolidate this United Nations headquarters as the center of gravity for the environmental dimension of sustainable development, as equally called for in "The Future We Want".

The range of issues making up the agendas of the MEAs is very wide. The adoption of common work agendas, the signing of memoranda of understanding, and the establishment of working groups, task forces and consortia, are all measures that make resource allocation more efficient and facilitate the intra-governmental coordination within each Member-State, including in terms of reporting. The International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime and the taskforces and MoUs under the Convention on Migratory Species emerge as examples of good practice.

As we reflect on mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration between UNEA and the MEAs to make the best possible use of synergies, we cannot turn a blind eye to treaty law. Each proposal will have to be carefully analyzed in terms of compatibility with the specific legal regime of each MEA, since treaties enjoy legal autonomy with respect to other international agreements, as clearly stated in Article 34 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Our efforts to promote synergies and efficiency cannot lead to obligations that might undermine the original compromises that were needed to achieve each MEA. Nor can it overlook the specific demands of developing countries, especially the timely access to adequate means of implementation, which are critical to the effective implementation of MEAs - one of the most important objectives of the promotion of synergies in the environmental realm and of the political declaration we are now preparing.

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

Turning to the scientific, technical and technological bodies of the MEAs, Brazil considers that the science-policy interface should be strengthened by ensuring more inclusive and geographically representative selection processes, honoring the universality called for in "The Future We Want".

Joint scientific assessments would have to be carefully considered, so as to avoid that they have an excessively wide scope, which could ultimately undermine the ability of these bodies to identify and address the specific challenges that affect the implementation of each MEA.

Thank you, Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator.
