



**United Nations Environment Programme
Committee of Permanent Representatives
153rd Meeting**

26 January 2021

**Remarks by Brazil on item 6
Consideration of draft decisions on administrative and budgetary
matters for the virtual session of UNEA-5 in February 2021**

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

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor on the draft decisions to be prepared for the virtual session of UNEA-5. At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared revised versions of the three texts, trying to incorporate inputs received from Member States at the subcommittee meeting held on December 10.

As we all recall, the understanding that paved the way for holding a two-step UNEA is that issues on substance would be deferred to the consideration of the resumed session, in 2022, while only pressing administrative and budgetary issues would be considered at the online session. The rationale was, of course, the recognition that online negotiations present challenges in terms of inclusivity and transparency. We have agreed to prepare a narrow set of three draft decisions, dealing with urgent issues that - as we have also consensually agreed - could not wait until 2022. This preparation, of course, is a Member State driven process within the CPR, culminating in the OECPR, when line-by-line readings will be contemplated in this exceptional format for this limited set of decisions.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the draft decision on the adjournment and resumption of UNEA-5, Brazil welcomed the inclusion of a preambular paragraph recalling the agreed-upon theme for the Assembly and of an operative paragraph 5 clarifying that the Assembly will fulfill its mandate according to Resolution 73/333 at its resumed session.

Regarding OP4, Brazil reiterates the point raised in the previous subcommittee meeting. The text alludes to an Annex to the decision, listing the reports regarding which action would be deferred to the resumed session, but the Annex itself has not been made available together with this draft. Regarding OP6, Brazil also reiterates that if the text is going to restate the mandate of the CPR, it should be doing so in its entirety, in line with relevant Rules of Procedure and Governing Council resolutions.

In the previous round of conversations on this draft decision, Brazil also highlighted that it could be useful to include a paragraph organizing the intra-session work between the online and the resumed segments of UNEA. The new OP3, as drafted by the Secretariat, apparently tries to deal with this issue. But, in doing so, it might have inadvertently created additional confusion. After all, it tries to deal, at once, with mandates that have different characteristics - that of the Steering Committee of GEO, that of Resolution 73/333, that of the CPR-based review, that of the now finalized AHEG on Marine Litter and Microplastics. Also, its operative "call upon" is directed to "the Secretariat, as well as Member States", but the next steps expected in these processes are all intergovernmental.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the draft decision on the adoption of the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 and of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023, Brazil also reiterates the point it raised during the subcommittee meeting and that has not made its way into the text as revised by the Secretariat.

That is, we suggest that the preambular section include a few lines recalling the context in which the MTS and PoW/B are being adopted, that is, clarifying that it is an integral part of the efforts of the international community to implement the 2030 Agenda and that they will guide the actions of the Programme on the environmental dimension of sustainable development during the beginning of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs.

Brazil is of the view that the draft decision should recall the coordinating role assigned to UNEP in Paragraph 88 of "The Future We Want", while recognizing that the MTS is without prejudice to the legal autonomy of each multilateral environmental agreement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.