

154° CPR MEETING

20th MAY 2021

GRULAC STATEMENT

Agenda Item 4: Consideration of the cycle of the term of office of the CPR Bureau

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We are delivering this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group, Nairobi Chapter.

Since the beginning of this debate, we have followed carefully the considerations made by Delegations on the terms of office of the CPR Bureau and its relationship with that of the UNEA Bureau. We do so with a constructive perspective, in the search for the best understanding that will allow us to reach a consensus. With this sprit we have participated in the CPR Subcommittee Meeting last 6th May and in the Extended Bureau Meeting on the 12th of May.

As we said before, the extraordinary situation imposed on us by the COVID 19 pandemic has led us to take decisions that were also extraordinary. In this regard, it was decided to have an Assembly in two stages, under the leadership of the same Bureau. It was also decided to hold a virtual Assembly session for the first time in its history, to consider urgent administrative and budgetary matters. These are all unprecedented decisions, following an unprecedented situation, which is the global pandemic we are going through.

In previous debates, we have said that the interpretation of the rules and decisions also requires taking into consideration their object and purpose. And, as we decided to create UNEA, we also decided to preserve the CPR, which would be the inter-sessional body responsible for the preparation of substantive outcomes of the incoming Assembly, as well as to follow-up the implementation of previous resolutions and decisions adopted by UNEA. In short, an interpretation of the relevant rules which adequately takes into consideration their purposes leads to the understanding that there is a symbiotic relationship between them.

Mr. Chair,

For this reason, and following a decision that implied the extension of the mandate of the UNEA Bureau, we believe it is appropriate to reflect on the cycle of the CPR Bureau, so that it maintains the criteria of coherence, integrity and correlation with the decisions we have taken in relation to UNEA.

In this sense, Mr. Chairman, among the options presented by the Secretariat last 6th May, we have expressed that the option that more adequately reflected those considerations was option B.

Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge we are under unprecedented circumstances that require understanding the exceptionality of the situation we need to face.

As we said last 12th May, we believe it is important to guarantee the continuity and work flow towards UNEA 5.2., with the understanding that we need to improve governance as a whole, so that the CPR can better prepare UNEA 5.2. In this regard, we would like to stress that the Secretariat itself clarified, in item 14 of the background paper prepared for this meeting, that electing a Bureau with different officers but from the same member States or regional groups, to hold the same positions, is permissible according to the rules of procedure.

In this sense, with a constructive perspective, GRULAC has proposed a possible way to move forward, that could be:

1. Election of a new CPR Bureau for one year, based on reelection of the current regional composition, but with the election of new authorities.
2. For the next future, the CPR should recommend to UNEA to:
 - a) Establish coincident cycles between CPR and UNEA Bureaux.
 - b) Prevent that one Regional Group could occupy both Presidencies of the Governing Bodies.
 - c) Next term between UNEA 6 and UNEA 7 should be for two years.

Thank you very much.