



**United Nations Environment Programme
Committee of Permanent Representatives
154th Meeting**

20 May 2021

**Remarks by Brazil on item 4
Consideration of the cycle of term of office of the
Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

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

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to, first and foremost, join previous speakers in welcoming our Executive Director back to Nairobi.

Regarding the issue at hand, Mr. Chairman, Brazil aligns itself with the statements delivered by GRULAC and by the G77+China. I would also like to recall that many of the points raised by the African Group also resonate positively within our delegation. At the same time, we have been hearing attentively and respectfully the points raised by other regional and political groups, as well as other delegations. I would like to join my voice to all those who indicated disposition for constructive dialogue.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing a background note clarifying the relevant rules and decisions for this conversation. It is a helpful document, because it makes clear that *all* three options put forward are equally consistent with the rules - and, let me recall, respecting them is a common thread in all interventions heard today. This debate is not about which option is or is not compliant with the rules, it is about identifying the best possible policy option within the legal framework we have.

While it is unfortunate that the CPR does not seem to be in a position to decide on the incoming Bureau today, Brazil welcomes the disposition for dialogue indicated by many

of us today and in informal conversations leading to this meeting. Creative and imaginative thinking, with a view to explore areas between the three options, obviously within the legal boundaries, is necessary to identify elements that will allow the Committee to consensually decide on its next Bureau before June 30th. Preserving a consensual basis for this decision is indeed crucial, so that the Bureau in charge of the next steps can count with the full support of the entire membership, paving the way for a successful UNEA-5.2 and an important Special Session to commemorate UNEP@50.

This is why, even though we prefer Option B, we are ready to engage - as stated by GRULAC - in the preparation of a compromise approach, one that would necessarily take elements brought to the table by all regional groups. GRULAC offered elements that are, from our vantage point, helpful. Among them, the notion that UNEA-5.2 could decide to align the terms of office between the Bureaux of UNEA and of the CPR. This seems consistent with the desire to foster cooperation and joint effort in the preparation of UNEAs and the follow-up of previous resolutions, while fully acknowledging that they are different bodies.

We have also heard, loud and clear, the position of the African Group regarding the importance to ensure that our conversation today does not impact their legitimate expectation to ensure that the Bureau of UNEA-6 serves at full term. We have heard, from GRULAC, a call to recalibrate the terms of office in light of an extraordinary decision regarding UNEA-5, so as to preserve geographical balance. From WEOG, we hear willingness to work in a spirit of multilateral cooperation with all regional groups in the many processes ahead of us on the way to UNEA-5.2, UNEA@50 and UNEA-6. From all, we hear disposition to dialogue and a firm commitment to the rules of procedure.

In short, Mr. Chairman, rather than restating our known preferences it is time to constructively engage with each other's positions to identify a way forward.

Thank you.