

**Informal Workshop on implementation of United Nations General  
Assembly resolution 73/333**

9<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Argentina written inputs**

**(i) What could be the role and added value of the political declaration as one of the outcomes of UNEP@50?**

\* The role and added value of the political declaration lays mainly on the call for renewed efforts at all levels to enhance the implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law, in particular stressing the importance of enhanced ambition regarding means of implementation, as stated in the second substantive recommendation contained in the annex of the UNGA Res. 73/333.

\* This element is much more urgent in the current context of an unprecedented decline in the generation of public and private resources and in the context on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our economies, in particular for developing countries.

\* The political declaration should be a clear reminder about the need to avoid “every man on himself” approaches to environmental issues. Moreover, ambition should be promoted *urbi et orbi* taking into account national circumstances and capabilities.

\* In this regard, it should renew international commitment towards the CBDR Principle of the 1992 Rio Declaration and Principle 9 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration which states that “[e]nvironmental deficiencies generated by the conditions of under-development and natural disasters pose grave problems and can best be remedied by accelerated development through the transfer of substantial quantities of financial and technological assistance as a supplement to the domestic effort of the developing countries and such timely assistance as may be required”.

**(ii) What elements of the current draft building blocks for the declaration you cannot support?**

\* Argentina affirms that the political declaration should address sustainable development in its three dimensions -economic, social and environmental- in a balanced and integrated manner. It should as well be based on consensus and agreed language.

\* The substantive recommendations contained in the annex of the UNGA Res. 73/333 are the result of a fragile consensus and seems to be in line with this balanced approach.

\* Accordingly, any new language proposals should follow these criteria. Concepts that lack multilateral agreement, i.e. green recovery, should be avoided.

**(iii) Which elements are outside the mandate of UNGA resolution 73/333? Which important elements are missing from the draft building blocks?**

\* The document draft building blocks of a political declaration introduces a set of novel elements not contemplated in the recommendations of the special open-ended working group (OEWG) contained in annex 1 of the res. 73/333.

\* Some of these novel elements could lead to reopening negotiations on issues that have already been settled, with the consequent expenditure of time and human resources.

\* For example, UNGA resolution 73/333 does not contain provisions regarding a specific role for UNEP in the context of trade, nor on how National Governments should exploit the potential for domestic resources through policy reviews.

\* It is important to note that, since paragraph 7 of annex 1 of res. 73/333 mentions strengthening the ambition in terms of means of implementation, the document proposed by the co-facilitators expands on the subject of environmental financing in paragraphs 27 to 31, with statements on the role of public finances (paragraph 27), investment alignment (paragraph 28); innovative and multi-stakeholder financial initiatives (paragraph 29); supplemental financial support that promotes "sustainable businesses and life patterns"(paragraph 30) and sustainable fiscal reforms (including environmental taxes, in paragraph 31).

\* During the first meeting of informal consultations, Argentina accompanied the G-77 declaration which stated the critical importance of developed countries fulfilling their commitments regarding means of implementation. Consequently, the declaration called attention to the fact that any mention of innovative finance or private sector financing should be supplementary to the current financial structures under existing frameworks and conventions.

\* In the Copenhagen Agreement of 2009, developed countries committed to mobilize US\$ 30,000 million annually in the period 2010-2012 and US\$ 100,000 million annually by 2020. However, the goal was far from being met and the resources are scarce in the face of the most imminent needs. Of the US \$ 860,000 million committed, which should have been mobilized so far, only a figure close to US \$ 32,000 million was achieved, that is, 4% of the total committed.

\* To this end, we must also have bureaucratic mechanisms that allow us to operationalize these resources in an agile and efficient way, avoiding unnecessary delays and the increase in associated administrative costs.

\* That is why ensuring an adequate and predictable mobilization and provision of means of implementation towards developing countries, based on the principle of CBDR, and in line with the commitments assumed in a timely manner by developed countries within the framework of existing environmental agreements, is essential to foster the implementation of international environmental law.

**(iv) Should the Political Declaration include any follow-up action for Member States, Members of Specialized Agencies, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations System and the Multilateral Environment Agreements?**

\* Argentina considers that annex 1 of the UNGA resolution 73/333 does not mandate a follow-up action for Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

\* The mandate goes up “to prepare (...) a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting, (...), in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972 (...)”.