

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Subcommittee Meeting

Friday 15 October 2021

ARGENTINA

Thank you Madam Chair,

Firstly, allow me to greet you and congratulate you for conducting this meeting, taking into account the relevance of the commemoration of UNEP@50. Allow me also to extend our congratulation to Ambassador of Mexico, who chaired yesterday meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity also to extend our gratitude to UNON, UNEP and our host country, for all the work done that allow us to meet here, in this format.

Madam Chair,

Regarding this agenda item, our Delegation has expressed its general vision in relation to this celebration at the 155th meeting of the CPR, as well as the vision also conveyed at that meeting by the Representative of our Regional Group.

On that occasion, we have shared ideas, emphasizing the importance of thinking about the UNEP we want in the future and the role it can play in assisting Member States, in particular developing countries, in the implementation of international environmental commitments. In this sense, as stated by GRULAC at the last CPR meeting, one of the themes of UNEP@50 could be "*Towards the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development*".

Also at that meeting, GRULAC requested further information on the specific proposals presented by the Secretariat.

Both interventions are available on the website of the meeting.

Madam Chair,

In this context, we have taken note of document UNEP/SC/2021/11/2 circulated by the Secretariat for today's meeting, which has raised a number of concerns and we would like to seek further clarification, precision or information on several points of the document.

On Point B of the document, which deals with the Objectives of the Special Session, refers to ideas of "*transforming*" and "*renewing*" environmental multilateralism. It also refers to strengthening the "*global environmental movement*" and "*promoting a system of environmental governance*".

informed by non-traditional coalitions such as multi-stakeholder partnerships to shape an inclusive, networked multilateralism where the power for change is shared among all segments and sectors of society".

There is a need for further clarification and precision of these concepts, as well as the Secretariat's vision in this regard.

Madam Chair,

From our perspective, the definition of "*environmental governance system*" referred to in the document is complex, as it requires consideration of the international, regional, national and sub-national levels; as well as the distinction between the role of governments in the multilateral system -in which various Multilateral Environmental Agreements coexist, with their own structures, objectives, means of implementation and monitoring and review frameworks- and the contribution of major groups and stakeholders in these processes, as recognized at Rio plus 20.

Madam Chair,

Multilateralism, including environmental multilateralism, is intergovernmental. In this sense, UNEP could contribute to its strengthening by promoting instances of dialogue between States leading to negotiated and consensual outcomes (such as negotiated declarations, resolutions, decisions, among others) and discouraging the proliferation of non-negotiated outcomes. The latter undermine the spirit of consensus that should be at the heart of multilateralism. This is a point where UNEP, in its effort to strengthen environmental multilateralism, could make a valuable and positive contribution.

Madam Chair,

As we have said before, the objective of strengthening UNEP as a catalyst for environmental action should focus on how to improve the implementation of existing Multilateral Agreements.

Also under point B of the document, regarding the strengthening of UNEP's role as a global environmental authority, we would like to recall that this role should be exercised taking into account the mandates of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the guidance given to UNEP by Member States, prioritizing its work in supporting countries in achieving their national policies and plans.

With regard to the strengthening of UNEP's financial capacity, also in point B on the document, and on the understanding that contributions to the Programme are voluntary, we would like to have more precisions about this idea.

Madam Chair,

With regard to point C of the document, in particular on the High Level Dialogues, we would appreciate more information on the structure they will have, and to know if specific concept notes on them are foreseen. It is also not clear to us whether there will be two topics to be dealt with simultaneously or whether the proposals are mutually exclusive. We would appreciate further clarification.

Regarding the "Looking forward" dialogue, we would like to know the scope of the "*future international frameworks*" referred to in the description of the dialogue.

On point D, we would like to make the following questions:

On the proposal for the establishment of a Global Environmental Data Centre in Nairobi, we see merit in the idea of creating a web portal to facilitate access to existing information. However, we would like to ask whether this initiative will require UNEP to collect additional data, bearing in mind that this could overburden countries with requests for information and reports.

With regard to the proposed Science-Policy Report for the last 50 years, we understand that a draft will be circulated to CPR Members in advance. We would like to reconfirm this and to know if there is an estimated date of circulation. We would also like to know if this report will be related to the work being done on the future of Global Environmental Outlook (GEO).

On the third proposal, we would like to have more precise information on the scope of the concept of "*universal commitment*" in relation to the indicative scale of voluntary contributions, as well as clarification on the use of the concept of "*fair share*" in this context. On the proposal for thematic funds, we would also like to have more details on how the funding of these funds is envisaged.

Madam Chair,

Finally, with regard to section E of the document, we would like to recall the need to use multilateral agreed language in the communication plan, as well as the importance of multilingualism.

With regard to the Side Events, we would like to know the background and reasons for the choice of the topic mentioned in the document, which proposes to discuss the transformations that the multilateral system is supposed to undergo.

Thank you very much.