

United Nations Environment Programme
Committee of Permanent Representatives
8th Annual Subcommittee Meeting – 25th to 29th October 2021

Agenda item 4
Preparations for the resumed session of UNEA-5

Statements by the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Agenda items 4(a) and 4(b)

Consideration of key areas of importance in accordance with mandates from previous UNEA resolutions; announcements of draft resolutions for UNEA-5

Madam Chair,

I am taking the floor on behalf of GRULAC to address jointly agenda items 4(a) and 4(b). As we have stated at the 155th Meeting of the CPR, our group wants the UNEA-5.2 to be as ambitious as possible.

GRULAC expects that the Assembly fulfills its role as "leading global environmental authority", as set forth in Paragraph 88 of "The Future We Want". And we wish to underscore that ambition is not measured by the quantity of outcomes, but also – and more importantly – by their ability to trigger the changes we need.

At the same time, GRULAC wishes to highlight that a hybrid negotiating process is not the same as in-person one. Also, there are still uncertainties regarding the terms of hybridity. Our group seeks clarification from the Secretariat, for instance, on whether there will be funds to finance the participation of capital-based delegates from developing countries. Even if we are to prepare and hold UNEA-5.2 in a hybrid format, our expectations on substantive outcomes should take into consideration what such a setting can deliver. We should aim at a focused, yet ambitious, set of outcomes. GRULAC therefore concurs with the call made jointly by the UNEA President and by the CPR Chair for a realistic and manageable workload.

As we all know, UNEA-5.2 will necessarily have to produce a significant number of outcomes to respond to important mandates issued by UNEA-4 and by the General Assembly, ranging from the future of GEO to the challenges of marine litter and plastics; from the declaration mandated by Resolution 73/333 to its own Ministerial Declaration. We must be careful not to overburden the Assembly, at the risk of jeopardizing its success. GRULAC echoes the call by the President and by the Chair for Member States to exercise restraint when considering presenting additional draft resolutions. In this context, GRULAC would also encourage other delegations to indicate in a

transparent and inclusive manner, and as early as possible, their intentions to propose draft resolutions.

Madam Chair,

Our region has been consistently calling for a wise use of the already brief intersessional period until UNEA-5.2. The CPR has to start, as early as practicable, the preparations of its outcomes. We might not yet have reached a collective understanding about which additional resolutions we will entertain, but we do know that there are mandates that UNEA-5.2 will have to respond to. In this regard, GRULAC took positive note of the scheduling of conversations on marine litter and microplastics and on the CPR-based Review Process already during this Annual Subcommittee. At the same time, GRULAC would have hoped for an early occasion to resume consultations on the draft Plan of Action to Implement Paragraph 88, another important mandate from UNEA-4. A significant amount of work has already been done, but it seems pertinent to recall that Member States did not agree to finalize the consultations regarding the draft Plan of Action. Rather, we rather parked it aside as it became clear that it would not be adopted at UNEA-5.1. The earlier we resume negotiating the texts that respond to previous mandates, the more bandwidth the membership will have to prepare other outcomes.

Finally, Madam Chair, GRULAC welcomes the discussions regarding the need to tackle the global plastic pollution and affirm our commitment to address this important issue at this UNEA- 5.2, with the aim to initiate negotiations to achieve a new Global Agreement on Plastic Pollution with ambitious goals and equally ambitious means of implementation, and wide participation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda item 4(c)

Briefing on the consultations on a draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-5

Madam Chair,

GRULAC expresses its appreciation to the Presidency of UNEA-5 for having circulated the zero draft Ministerial Declaration for the resumed session of the Assembly, together with a proposed timeline for the consultation process.

GRULAC delegations look forward to engaging actively and constructively in the preparation of this document, which should be based on consensus. Our group expects that consultations take place in an inclusive, transparent and democratic manner, making the best possible use of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Such an approach is essential for a text that, as far as we understand from the briefing by the UNEA Presidency, will not be submitted to a proper line-by-line negotiation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.
