

**11th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives**
**Statement Colombia Agenda Item 5 a): Preparations for the seventh session of the
United Nations Environment Assembly**

In relation to item 5 of the agenda, concerning the preparation of UNEA 7, section a) proposes the roadmap for the development of the new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and the next Programme of Work (PoW).

The presentation of this item, in the section on lessons learned from new evaluations, states: *"4. UNEP's leadership role in Environmental Governance needs a clearer focus, strategic priorities and more specific outcomes as well as mechanisms to strengthen the foundational nature of the subprogramme."*

Our delegation considers that this recommendation deserves the highest attention. We believe it is essential to improve the way in which the foundational subprograms, such as governance, are monitored, because their evaluation is sometimes focused on the cross cutting measures within the thematic programs, without emphasizing the development of specific products and outcomes for them. These subprograms should not have a lower priority within the MTS and the PoW, as they support and leverage many actions that enable the achievement of the objectives of the thematic programs.

For instance, IPBES¹ identifies the application and strengthening of environmental law and policies as one of the main interventions or "levers" that can generate transformative changes to tackling the underlying indirect drivers of biodiversity loss. Moreover, among the "key leverage points", where efforts yield exceptionally large effects, it considers justice and inclusion in decision-making and respect for human rights when making such decisions.

These levers and support points, when properly selected for a particular situation, reinforce each other, enabling certain interventions to foster more significant and large-scale changes. That aligns with the considerations for the formulation and orientation phase (points 3 and 4) of document UNEP/CPR/ASC/11/7², to be considered in the development of the new MTS and the next PoW.

Therefore, we would appreciate it if you could elaborate further on how this learned lesson is being incorporated into the roadmap and the preparations for UNEA 7. Thank you.

¹ IPBES (2019): Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, *et al.* IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

²Especially points: 3.2. Analysis of environmental assessments, emerging priorities, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) y 4.8. Integrated approaches: UNEP will extend its focus beyond sectoral challenges to identify opportunities for transformative change.

