Thank you Chair, for giving me the floor.

Madam Francisca Ashietey-Odunton, President of the CPR,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to speak on behalf of GRULAC in Nairobi.

In relation to the Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly,

GRULAC would like to thank Minister Siim Kiisler and his team for their leadership in the preparations of UNEA 4 including the Ministerial Declaration and his engagement in the dialogue with the regional groups and the members of the bureau and the secretariat.

We encourage him to continue with his active leadership to make sure UNEA 4 will be a big success.

The GRULAC countries are ready to collaborate in the best way possible to have a successful UNEA 4,

However, GRULAC would like to make the following observations.

GRULAC has similar observations concerning the draft declaration as it had on the outline document.

The document has a very strong technical component, including the proposal of goals that could be very difficult to negotiate from here to the UNEA.

The declaration should focus on a strong political message and focus on the actions that could be taken by member countries and other actors.

It is not clear to us, the nature of the document , or to whom the document speaks to. This needs to be clarified.

GRULAC considers that the language that needs to be used, is the language that we have agreed under the umbrella of the Rio plus 20 and the 10 year framework programme on sustainable consumption and production.

The language needs to have direct connection with the theme of UNEA 4, "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production"

There are some elements within the proposal that are addressed as priorities, which could be best adressed in the form of a resolution instead of it being included in the declaration.

This is the case of the proposed priority action work number one.

We consider that The document needs to be balanced,

Currently we observe that it has a strong emphasis on digital innovation aspect and GRULAC would like to see more elements of Sustainable consumption and production to be linked to the agreed theme.

We recognize when adressing innovative solutions we must recognize those practices that have already demonstrated to be effective to achieve the SDG´s and to promote sustainble consumption and production, including traditional practices.

In the framework of Agenda 2030 within our national capacity and priorities and with strong support of the international community, to reinforce international cooperation. For that purpose it would be of key

importance to find innovative solutions to fulfill the Sustainable development goals.

If these aspects are not reflected in these documents we take the risk to leave behind countries that dont have the enabling conditions to move forward within the spirit that the declaration should have, as the UNEA is a universal, an inclusive body.

It is necessary to avoid setting deadlines, and specific goals , it needs general aspirations, general references of the cooperation between countries and it needs to have a strong call for action .And the recognition that means of implementation should be made available to developing countries.

We also request from the secretariat to make available the background documents that takes into account these concerns and provide us with inputs for our deliverations.

It is very important to ensure UNEP´s leadership under the guidance and in consultation with Member States,

UNEP´s role is to provide us with the framework to support the international community, and member States to move towards sustainable consumption and production.

Finally, GRULAC would like to communicate that it is fully committed to work collaboratively to have a fruitful Assembly in March 2019.

We look forward to work in a dymanic, transparent, and participatory negociation process.

With a focus on obtaining the best results that benefit the Programme and the Member States.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair!