

21 May 2020

Inputs from Mexico on Draft terms of reference of the Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Mexico would like to express its gratitude for the preparation of today's meeting to discuss the implementation of paragraphs 9-13 of Decision UNEP/EA.4/2 entitled "Provisional Agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly" with particular focus on subparagraph 10 d) and version III of the document "Converging elements of consensus" developed by the co-facilitators, especially its **Annex I "Draft terms of reference of the Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives"**.

Regarding the abovementioned Annex, Mexico would like to summarize the comments made by its delegation regarding paragraphs 5, 8 and 9 d) of the *Revised Draft Terms of Reference of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly* and to paragraphs 5 and 8 of the *Revised Draft Terms of Reference of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives*:

- a) **Invitations to Member States, individuals or organizations to the Bureaux, as observers.** Mexico agrees that the Presidents of the Bureaux may invite observers of all sorts, after a consensus among their members is reached. Our delegation has observed that some countries have attended with certain frequency these Bureau meetings in the past, becoming "frequent" members, pushing agendas in one way or another. Care should be taken not to allow this phenomenon to happen in the future by having an equitable representation of observers or by not allowing observers to become "regular members" of the Bureaux.
- b) **Carrying out meetings of the Bureaux outside Nairobi.** Our delegation is not against having meetings at locations outside Nairobi. However, we strongly believe that the first option should be to carry out meetings in Nairobi and, if an invitation is to be extended to another location, that it be made with the consensus of all the Bureaux members. There are two issues that must be clarified: i) It must be assured that all the Bureaux members are able to go, and ii) where are the funds for these trip expenses coming from.
- c) **The role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.** On a more general note, the Mexican delegation would kindly ask for clarification on how the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives will be linked to the functions of the Bureaux and reflected in their preparation of the fifth and subsequent sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Mexico appreciates incorporating our comments to the Meeting Summary of the Committee of Permanent Representatives carried out on 12 May 2020 and would be very grateful if you could upload these comments on the dedicated website, as well as to incorporate our suggestions in the forthcoming summaries and documents.