



## **First informal substantive consultation meeting under the auspices of the CPR on UNGA Resolution 73/333**

21-23 July 2020

### **Remarks by Brazil on Cluster 2 (Means of Implementation)**

as delivered by Mr. Nicola Speranza,  
Head of Environment Division I, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

As our debates reach the cluster of questions pertaining to means of implementation, it is worth recalling that the discussions culminating in Resolution 73/333 revealed that the gap we have jointly diagnosed is not a normative one, but an operational one. As Brazil stated in its opening remarks, we do not lack norms. What we lack is the implementation of the norms we have. Addressing this gap emerges therefore as the main purpose of this process.

Shortcomings in the implementation of environmental commitments are a challenge faced by developing and developed countries alike. All of us can do better. At the same time, it is equally true that each Member-State has different financial, scientific and technological capabilities to discharge their obligations, given the wide differences in levels of economic development. It is also true that those we call “developed” have been able to develop for longer times unimpeded by environmental restrictions, and now need to take on a greater share of responsibility for the problems of environmental degradation. At an ethical level, this is the expression of the principle of equity: “there is nothing more unequal than equal treatment of unequal people”.

None of what I just said is new to any of us. It is the fabric of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, a cornerstone of international environmental law expressly recognized in the Rio-1992 Declaration.

In yesterday's debate, all of us stressed the need to fully respect the mandate stemming from the General Assembly. Resolution 73/333 makes it clear that the political declaration is aimed at "strengthening the implementation" of international environmental law and of international environmental governance.

The document we are now preparing is all about implementation.

And the international community has already made clear, at least since Rio-1992, that this challenge is to be addressed from a perspective of CBDR. Let me be clear: having a political declaration that does not give prominence to this principle would be tantamount to backtracking. And, we stated yesterday, backtracking is not an option.

In fact, many speakers yesterday, including the Deputy Executive Director, called for an ambitious political declaration. Brazil could not agree more. As we commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of UNEP, we have to raise our level of ambition on cooperation and solidarity and, in line with the principle of CBDR, ensure that those less fortunate are equally capable to implement their environmental commitments.

There is no half ambition.

Let us seize the opportunity created by this declaration to shape a world where developing countries can count with more assistance – in additional financial resources, in the access to environmentally friendly technologies, in building capacities at the national and local levels – to "leapfrog" towards sustainable development. This is how this declaration can contribute to the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs. This is how it can contribute to revert the trends of environmental degradation. This is how it can make a difference in real life.

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

Allow me now to turn to some of the specific questions relating to Recommendations 7, 13, 15 and 16 of Resolution 73/333. They all lead us to stress how critical it is to take due account of the needs of Member States related to adequate resource allocation, capacity building and technology transfer.

Rather than creating additional mechanisms, Brazil would favor identifying best practices to enhance the coordination among the MEA Secretariats, with a view to optimize the use of resources. Even this approach would require, of course, respecting the authority of the Governing Bodies of each MEA, so as not to turn a blind eye to treaty law.

When it comes to means of implementation and MEAs, Brazil wishes to recall that the existing obligations are yet to be fully implemented. For instance, the Global Multilateral Benefit-Sharing Mechanism of the Nagoya Protocol is yet to be regulated. We also hold

that benefit sharing within the International Treaty on Phytogenetic Resources for Food and Agriculture must not occur on a voluntary basis when materials that have benefited from the materials made available by the treaty system are used commercially. GEF has played a significant role in support of our efforts to promote the environmental dimension of sustainable development, but it requires a significantly more robust replenishment to come closer to fulfilling the promise underlying its creation.

The work programs of MEAs must receive adequate resources. For example, only 14% of the last work program of the Convention on Migratory Species has obtained funding. Another current obstacle refers to the “earmarking” of the additional resources provided to MEAs, which can undermine the authority of the Conference of the Parties to define the directions of international cooperation and makes procedures within the MEAs less transparent and less democratic.

We do hope that the much-needed funding allocated for climate finance, especially for developing countries, is not displaced by actions focused on the economic recovery from the pandemic. On the contrary, it is of the utmost importance that climate finance is enhanced with supplementary financial support, aimed at promoting more sustainable businesses and life patterns. In our view, recovering from COVID 19 and fighting climate change can and must go hand in hand with each other. Developing countries have long been expecting for the fulfillment of the commitment of an annual disbursement of USD 100 billion in support of developing country efforts to combat climate change.

Our record on the transfer and access to environmentally friendly technologies is even more appalling. We have recognized time and again the critical role of technology and the importance of promoting innovation, particularly in developing countries. The time is past due for the international community to move from words and promises to action in this strategic issue.

Capacity building surely must be reinforced. The objectives and recommendations that must be the cornerstones of and that will frame the political declaration recognize the importance of bringing more robust support through programs and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

UNEP should be poised and ready to provide this much needed additional support. As we strive to implement paragraph 88 of the Future We Want, we must pay particular attention to its bullet (f) by which our Heads of Government and Heads of State instructed us to “Provide capacity- building to countries as well as support and facilitate access to technology”.

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

One final word on the issue of financial resources, technologies and capacity-building. In order to achieve the transformational changes we all want to put the world on a steady path towards sustainable development, it will be crucial to involve the private sector and other stakeholders. Governments simply cannot do it alone.

The task is huge. Let's do it.

Thank you, Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator.

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