

**First informal substantive consultation meeting under the auspices of the CPR on UNGA
Resolution 73/333 - 21-23 July 2020
Opening Statement by Costa Rica**

Madam Co-Facilitator / Mr. Co-Facilitator,

At the outset, Costa Rica wishes to align with the statement made by GRULAC, represented by H.E. Erasmo R. Martínez, Ambassador of the United Mexican States to Kenya, president of GRULAC and with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Costa Rica appreciates the efforts of the co-facilitators in the preparation of the working document pursuant to Resolution 73/333 in order to achieve a political declaration with a view to strengthening the implementation and governance of international environmental law and to the Secretariat for the *Information Note* circulated prior to this meeting.

Costa Rica considers important to emphasize that these consultations are an opportunity to exchange of ideas in a constructive manner as well as to be inclusive, participatory and transparent. Costa Rica considers the CPR will most certainly be the right scenario to shape the political declaration, taking into consideration that the mandate handed to UNEA by the General Assembly is to prepare a non-legally binding political declaration.

Costa Rica considers that political declaration should aim to being ambitious and progressive, which can only be achieved by living up to obligations and commitments under existing environmental conventions and agreements but particularly towards the actual means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer and capacity building as fundamental prerequisites.

Costa Rica emphasizes the importance of a science policy interface focused on promoting policy coherence across environmental instruments; this approach does not scape the creation of the so mentioned political declaration. This is a political declaration that should strengthen the role of UNEP, and focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development carried out in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, entitled “The future we want”, including paragraphs 88 and 89 thereof.

It is the context of COVID-19, there is an indispensable need for additional means of implementation in support of the efforts undertaken by developing countries and all the principles of Rio and, among them, the common but differentiated responsibilities.

Costa Rica considers that UNEP, without interfering in the independent nature of the environmental conventions nor encroaching in their respective mandates and governance mechanisms, should work in a creative and progressive way in order to better coordinate the environmental work and identify spaces for synergies to take place among the different environmental agreements.

Finally, Costa Rica considers it critical to encourage member states to mainstream the environment into sectoral policies and programmes at all levels, recognizing the national circumstances but in any way diminishing the national approach to environmental protection.

Thank you very much Madam Co-Facilitator and Mr. Co-Facilitator.