

Costa Rica



SPECIAL MISSION TO UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Intervention by the Costa Rican Special Mission during the Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme

**On Tuesday 7 February 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
United Nations Office at Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya, Conference Room 4**

Referring to Agenda Item 4: Preparations for the 2017 Environment Assembly

Madam Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

I would like to take the opportunity to give a short and informal report from Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez, Costa Rican Minister of Environment, and President of the United Nations Environmental Assembly. A report about the road towards UNEA 3.

I would like to inform you that as President of UNEA, Mr. Gutierrez defined the following four elements as key for a successful run-up towards UNEA 3. First, transparency. Second, stakeholder engagement, and in particular the participation of civil society, to allow for full inclusiveness. Third, an effective follow-up of resolutions. And fourth, a good and efficient communication among all of us.

With regards to transparency, an online platform has been established where everyone can access relevant documents, minutes and discussion pieces that relate to UN Environment. Also in relation to transparency, the UNEA President established an international support group in Geneva, meant to promote the UN Environment Assembly's process. This was done with support from the Costa Rican Ambassador in Geneva, Ms. Elayne Whyte. This group intends to serve as a hub for information exchange and promote the participation of member states that have no physical representation in Nairobi.

At the same time we recognize that funding for UNEA 3 is still a challenge. The President of UNEA wishes to convey the message that it is essential that member states step up and provide donations for UNEA 3. And that they help consolidate funding commitments that guarantee a successful UNEA.

Furthermore, the President of the UN Environment Assembly would like to inform you that he is working with the Secretariat to develop a draft roadmap that lays out the upcoming meetings in the run-up to UNEA 3, as well as milestones and deadlines. This roadmap will help ensure that the process is clear and that there is time to discuss the Outcome Document and the Resolutions to be adopted at UNEA 3. And that all stakeholders are engaged in the due process. The roadmap will be shared by the Secretariat in February. This is a key month for

our work since we all will begin the drafting process of the relevant documents for UNEA 3. We will ensure active participation and constant engagement in the relevant discussions, going forward.

The President would also like to inform you that two joint meetings with the Bureau of the CPR have been scheduled for the coming months. The first one will happen on March 15, 2017, right after the Fourth Annual Subcommittee Meeting. This will allow for the UNEA Bureau to become informed about the results from the Annual Subcommittee Meeting and take the meetings' considerations into account.

The second joint meeting will be a retreat, to be held in Costa Rica, as a follow-up to World Ocean's Day. These meetings are held in conjunction with the CPR, in order to guarantee clear communication and transparency about our actions and decisions.

With regards to celebrations in relation to World Ocean's Day, I would like to inform that Costa Rica will be hosting a dialogue meeting in our country. Costa Rica is working closely with the Secretariat in planning this event accordingly. To ensure it will serve as an opportunity to inform UNEA-3, it will address the topic of ocean health and pollution. The dialogue will be held with stakeholders from academia, civil society, policy-makers, NGO's, and the private sector. It will take place on June 8 and 9, 2017, in Costa Rica. The dialogue will be complementary to the UN Oceans Conference in New York. It will discuss measures that need to be taken now, in order to guarantee the health of our oceans. It will focus on clean oceans for all.

Finally, I would like to state that it is important for my Minister of Environment, Edgar Gutierrez, and our Special Mission to UN Environment, that you are well informed about our vision and actions, particularly in relation to the Presidency of UN Environment. Costa Rica and the UNEA Presidency believe that without a healthy environment, humanity cannot prosper. Therefore, it cannot achieve happiness without the three dimensions of sustainable development. Costa Rica wants dignity for all, peace and health for all. A healthy environment, that serves humanity.

The UN Environment Assembly in December provides an opportunity for all of us to get us closer to that common goal. Costa Rica looks forward to working with member states, the Secretariat, and stakeholders, to make the UN Environment Assembly a success that inspires us on the road towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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