Comments by Brazil

PART B: INPUTS TO SUBPARAGRAPHS 10 a) - c)

Operative Paragraph 10 of decision 4/2 reads as follows: “Decides that the scope of the consideration during the review process will be:

(a) The preparation, working arrangements, and scheduling of sessions of the Environment Assembly and the objectives, preparation, working arrangements and the scheduling of meetings of its subsidiary body, namely the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives and the regular and annual meetings of the subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives;”

Guiding questions for subparagraph 10 (a):

1. How can UNEA and its working arrangements be leveraged to further enhance its ability to take strategic decisions and provide political guidance?
2. What steps can be taken to meaningfully enhance stakeholder engagement, including from the scientific community, at UNEA?
3. Are the designations of the subsidiary intersessional bodies – i.e. OECPR and the annual subcommittee – adequately reflecting their roles and functions?
4. Should the respective roles of the OECPR and the annual subcommittee be further clarified and reinforced? If so, how?
5. Are the timing and duration of the meetings of the different UNEP governing bodies optimal, or should they be reconsidered, including with respect to facilitating meaningful stakeholder participation? If so, how?

Provided inputs:

- In order to enhance its ability to provide political guidance, UNEA could consider negotiating a few "omnibus" resolutions (possibly one for each thematic cluster), rather than a proliferation of individual resolutions, which have sometimes proven to be repetitive and prolonged unnecessarily the negotiating exercise.

- The Bureau of UNEA should work towards the rationalization of the side events held at the margins of the Assembly, both by reducing the overall number and reflecting on how to schedule them in a manner that allows delegates engaged in informal consultations to attend them. Past experience shows that smaller delegations have not had the chance to participate in many side events, missing the opportunity to engage in informal debates and refine their
understanding on environmental issues.

- Brazil would be open to a discussion on renaming the OECPR and the Annual Subcommittee, on the understanding that their current roles, competencies and membership would be preserved. Brazil also believes that form follows function: when it comes to the scheduling of meetings, there should be some degree of flexibility, so as to adapt the allocated time to the actual negotiating demand.

**(b) The respective roles and responsibilities of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly and of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, including those related to interactions with their respective constituencies;**

**Guiding questions for subparagraph 10 (b):**

1. _Should the respective roles and responsibilities of the CPR and UNEA Bureaux and their Chairs be more distinguished and clarified, including with regard to representation of regional constituencies?_
2. _Should the two Bureaux further strengthen their working relationship? If so, how?_
3. _How can individual Bureau members contribute to enhancing the visibility of UNEA as the leading global environmental authority in other international fora?_

**Provided inputs:**

- The roles of the Bureaux of UNEA and of the CPR could be further clarified, within the limit of the current rules of procedure. The practice of holding joint Bureaux meetings should be stimulated, specially in the months preceding the UNEA Session. Regarding the membership of the Bureaux, it could be worth debating if the representation should be on an "ad country" rather than on an "ad personam" basis (which would require an amendment to the current rules of procedure). Among the benefits of this change are a possible increased engagement of the Member States holding offices in the Bureaux in enhancing the visibility of UNEA as the leading global environmental authority in other international fora.

**(c) Criteria, modalities and timing for presenting and negotiating draft resolutions and decisions;**

**Guiding questions for paragraph 10 (c):**

1. _What should be the key criteria and focus for draft UNEA resolutions and decisions, and how should they relate to the theme of the Assembly?_
2. How to better ensure that informal deadlines for submitting draft resolutions are respected?

3. How to ensure that resolutions and decisions are complementary and not duplicative to the UNEP programme of work and budget?

4. How can the secretariat better support the chairs of the working groups that negotiate resolutions including through possible submission of proposals for suggested action?

Provided inputs:

- Delegations should reflect on mechanisms to ensure that draft resolutions touch issues that fall within the purview of UNEA and does not encroach in competences of other regimes, for which there are specific decision-making bodies (such as UNFF, UNFCCC and CBD).

- The President of UNEA (or its whole Bureau) could have the initiative to present, well in advance, draft "omnibus" resolutions on each thematic cluster. Such a measure would probably stimulate delegations to present amendments to those texts, rather than introducing stand-alone draft resolutions. Such a measure would contribute to the rationalization of the drafting process within UNEA, while simultaneously preserving the sovereign right of each Member State to introduce draft resolutions at any stage, as foreseen in the UNEA rules of procedure.

- The Secretariat should circulate more effectively the information on budget implications of each draft resolution before its adoption.

- The Secretariat should be ready to assist Member States in their negotiating process, always upon invitation and in a professional, technical and non-politicized manner.