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Agenda Item 9

Thank you to the secretariat for the presentation and the report on agenda ítem 9. Colombia commends the ongoing efforts in implementing the various resolutions, allow me to start by particularly highlighting the progress in Resolution 2/4: Biodiverse and Resilient Cities – mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning.

Colombia emphasizes the importance of urban protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, such as Ramsar sites (wetlands) in urban settings. The development and management strategies of urban protected areas, which address specific challenges posed by urbanization—such as noise, light, air, and water pollution, waste, and urban expansion at the cost of natural ecosystems (like wetlands and mountains), and disruption of connectivity due to road construction and infrastructure, including energy networks—require coordination with the objectives of Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We look forward to the outcomes of the meeting from the regional expert group. Understanding how urban spaces integrate with and interdependently interact with the regional scale should guide the work of this group, emphasizing the need to respect, establish, or restore city-region connectivities, such as conservation corridors and other forms that facilitate the flow of resources, genes, among others, between these areas. This is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services in these spaces.

For the implementation of this resolution, it is vital that the compilation of best practices also considers examples of contributions made by indigenous groups and local communities. These communities integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into territorial planning of the areas they inhabit, where they incorporate knowledge about ecological cycles and ecosystem functions without contravening them but respecting them in the way they inhabit the territory, where ecosystems and cultures coevolve and determine each other. This includes analyzing how urban expansion sometimes trespasses on these territories, ignoring traditions and disrupting the nature-culture interaction—all of which should be coordinated with the development of the resolution Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization and Human Settlement.

Related to this resolution it is worth mentioning that CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean) is currently supporting a regional biodiversity and cities project incubator in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the Humboldt Institute.

We are currently working towards promoting and aligning the efforts of implementation of this resolution in the framework of COP 16 on biodiversity, which will take place in Cali, Colombia. The implementation of this resolution should also be connected with the Amazon

Cities Forum that we support alongside ICLEI and the Inter-American Development Bank. We also highlight the support of the government of Brasil through their Ministry of Cities.

With regards to resolution 1/2 on safer cities and human settlements, we emphasize the fact that one of the main demands of countries in Latin American and the Caribbean is on Urban Safety. If UN Habitat is to respond to actual needs as communities are expressing in the field, it is important to maintain and continue working towards a Urban Safety offer. Thank you.