UNEA Zero Draft Resolution by the Government of the Republic of Colombia

Advancing Options for International Instruments on the Environmentally Sound Management of Minerals and Metals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting with concern that the extraction, processing, and use of minerals and metals contributes to the global environmental challenges and crises, affecting the social, economic and environmental dimension of sustainable development,

Recognizing that the negative impacts of the extraction, processing and use of minerals and metals can extend beyond national boundaries, affecting shared natural resources such as water and transboundary ecosystems, and that full life-cycle and due diligence approaches are needed, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities,

Recognizing that the extraction, processing and use of minerals and metals can have disproportionate adverse impacts on communities inhabiting mining territories, including Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, and other communities in situations of vulnerability, and underlining the importance of respecting their rights and ensuring their full and effective participation in decision-making processes that affect them,

Emphasizing that the scope of the present resolution covers the entire supply chain of minerals and metals, excluding mineral fuels and the marine environment,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 37/7 of 28 October 1982, entitled "World Charter for Nature", which states that "non-renewable resources […] shall be exploited with restraint, taking into account their abundance, the rational possibilities of converting them for consumption, and the compatibility of their exploitation with the functioning of natural systems",

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", adopted on 27 July 2012, which acknowledges the major contribution that minerals and metals make to modern societies and calls upon governments and businesses to promote the continuous improvement of accountability and transparency in that field,

Recalling its resolutions 4/19 of 15 March 2019 on mineral resource governance, 5/12 of 2 March 2022 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management, including the outcomes of the intergovernmental consultations conducted pursuant to its implementation, as well as resolution 6/5 Environmental aspects of minerals and metals, and taking note of the reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on progress in the implementation of resolution 6/5 Environmental aspects of minerals and metals and Priorities for advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet *Part I ,"iv. Priority: Critical Energy and Digital Transition Minerals"*,

Recognizing that sustainable management of minerals and metals contributes significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed environmental goals, including towards sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Acknowledging that energy transition and clean technologies that are crucial for combating climate change and achieving our climate goals are highly dependent on minerals and metals, and stressing the need for enhanced action to support the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals,

Welcoming the report of the UN Secretary- General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, that called for a just, equitable and sustainable approach to meet the rising demand for key minerals and its seven voluntary Guiding Principles and five actionable recommendations that underscore that the energy transition must benefit all, while protecting people and the planet,

Taken note of the report *Financing the responsible supply of energy transition minerals for Sustainable Development* of the International Resource Panel 2025, presented to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session,

Welcoming efforts made by Governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, multilateral agreements, initiatives and instruments, and voluntary actions by the public and private sector for the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals and recognizing the need for coordinated policy and long-term regulatory frameworks,

Emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen global coordination, cooperation, and governance to take immediate action to advance the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals to reduce its related risks to human well-being and the environment,

1. *Calls* on all relevant stakeholders along the full life cycle of minerals and metals to intensify their efforts for the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals, including towards a just and inclusive transition to a circular economy, through the development and implementation of national strategies, the promotion of sustainable consumption and production, and the strengthening of international cooperation, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange;

2. *Calls* upon Member States, international organizations, industry, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders to promote and support the implementation of the Guiding Principles and Actionable Recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals;

3. *Decides* to convene, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with other relevant bodies and international initiatives, an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group (AHEG) to examine options for international instruments, including global and legally binding instruments, for the environmentally sound management of minerals

and metals through full life-cycle and due diligence approaches, excluding mineral fuels and the marine environment, and:

(a) *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the secretariat for that work;

(b) *Decides* that the open-ended ad hoc expert group will be informed by and build on, among others, relevant resolutions, decisions and reports by the United Nations Environment Programme, other organizations, member States and stakeholders as appropriate;

(c) *Decides* that the open-ended ad hoc expert group will include experts with the relevant technical expertise from all member States, representation from international and regional conventions, and relevant stakeholders, including representatives of major groups and other stakeholders;

(d) *Decides* that the open-ended ad hoc expert group will have the following initial programme of work:

(i) To identify options for international instruments, including global and legally binding instruments, for coordinated global action on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals, through full life-cycle and due diligence approaches, excluding mineral fuels and the marine environment, with a view to reducing environmental impacts;

(ii) To identify environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different options for international instruments;

(iii) To examine the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options;

(iv) To identify necessary means of implementation under international response measures for capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and financial assistance for developing countries;

(v) To identify a roadmap for continued work to progress options for international instruments including global and legally binding instruments by the United Nations Environment Assembly;

(e) *Decides* to convene at least one meeting, but no more than two meetings, before the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including enabling the participation of developing countries;

(f) *Requests* the Executive Director to provide a progress update to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its eighth session on the programme of work, including on the results of the meeting(s);

(g) *Decides* to determine the future direction, timing and expected outcomes of the work to advance international response options, including global and legally binding instruments, at the eighth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its eighth session on the present resolution.