

Sommet pour un pacte mondial pour l'Environnement

Summit on a Global Pact for the Environment

meeting alongside the UN General Assembly (New York)

19 September 2017 at 3:30pm - 5pm

**Concept Note
(for general public distribution)**

I – About the Global Pact for the Environment

The Global Pact for the Environment was drawn up by a group of 80 recognized legal experts, from 40 countries, under the leadership of Laurent Fabius, President of the French Constitutional Council and former COP21 President. They presented the draft compact at the Sorbonne, in Paris, on 24 June 24 2017 to numerous high-level figures including the President of the French Republic, Mr Ban Ki-moon and Ms Christiana Figueres.

The idea of a global compact for the environment stems from the fragmented nature of international and environmental law. Indeed, many of the existing environmental treaties are focused on particular sectors such as the climate, waste or biodiversity, and sometimes lack coherence. In the light of the increasing threats posed to our environment on a global scale, and off the back of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, it now seems necessary to bring together the different aspects covered by international environmental law in one document and update them in the light of new issues. This initiative complements the Paris Agreement but remains distinct and separate. It should be an open and inclusive initiative.

Thus, **the draft compact aims at bringing together and expanding the fundamental principles of environmental law. The aim is for it to be a legally binding and generalized treaty** setting out all of the fundamental rights that should be protected in the field of the environment and the major principles upon which environmental law is founded, which should guide the actions of States Parties. **It is based on pre-existing agreements and declarations** (Paris Agreement, Rio Declarations, Aarhus Convention, global or sector-based environmental conventions, etc.) or those established by international jurisprudence. The draft compact, as drawn up by the legal experts, also brings in **some new ideas** including the principle of non-regression, a duty of care for the environment and the protection of the environment in armed conflicts.

II – Summit for a Global Pact for the Environment (19 September 2017, 3:30pm, New York)

On 24 June 2017, the President of the French Republic gave his backing for France and its partners to lead efforts at the UN to draw up a global compact for the environment.

A **“Summit on a Global Pact for the Environment” will therefore be held on 19 September 2017 at 3:30pm in New York** during the ministerial opening week of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. The summit will be **chaired by the President of the French Republic, in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Heads of State and Government, representatives from UN institutions and figures from civil society.**

III- Global compact negotiation process and timetable

The creation of such a Compact is a long process and will require wide-reaching and inclusive dialogue with all States and interested stakeholders.

Following the Summit on 19 September, France's goal is to launch an international consultation, together with all interested States, with a view to drawing up the compact and submitting, if the conditions are met, **a short and procedural resolution** to the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly. This resolution would create **an open intergovernmental working group** responsible for negotiating the Compact and setting out its parameters such as its scope and legally binding nature. **Once this resolution has been adopted, the intergovernmental working group will begin its work. During this process, the work carried out by the legal experts will be used as a basis for discussions which will continue between States in collaboration with stakeholders from civil society.**