



**Re: Response to UNEA President's Letter of April 5, 2017
(DM-325-2017)**

UNEP SGB to: Sirotic, Aldo J

19-04-2017 09:07 AM

Sent by: **Jorge Laguna-Celis**

Cc: UNEP SGB, Jaime Serpanchy

Dear Aldo,

Thank you for your kind communication regarding the U.S. Position on the Ministerial Declaration of the Assembly. We have recorded your views on behalf of the President and will inform him in due course. Kind regards

-----"Sirotic, Aldo J" <SiroticAJ@state.gov> wrote: -----

To: "unep.sgb@unep.org" <unep.sgb@unep.org>

From: "Sirotic, Aldo J" <SiroticAJ@state.gov>

Date: 04/13/2017 07:53PM

Subject: Response to UNEA President's Letter of April 5, 2017 (DM-325-2017)

U.S. Position on Third UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) Ministerial Declaration

The United States appreciates our positive collaboration with the Secretariat and Member States to use this Assembly to increase public awareness and mobilize concrete actions toward addressing pollution. In response to UNEA President Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta's April 5 letter inviting comments on a proposed Ministerial Declaration, the United States would like to reiterate that we do not support negotiating a Ministerial Declaration at UNEA-3. Based on experience, we are not optimistic that consensus can be reached on a meaningful Ministerial Declaration, and note that such documents are often divisive, produce a least-common-denominator result that says very little of significance, and do not satisfy the aspirations of many Member States. Furthermore, they consume valuable Assembly time and staff resources which could be better focused on concrete environmental solutions. We would suggest using a Chair's Summary of the UNEA-3 proceedings instead, which could accurately reflect the full range of views expressed during the meeting, and allow us to focus the work of the Assembly on more productive endeavors.

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