



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

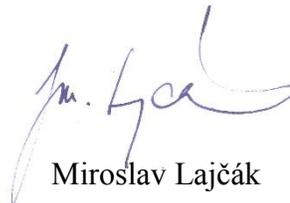
24 July 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 July 2018, from H.E. Mr. Francisco António Duarte Lopes, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Portugal and H.E. Ms. Amal Mudallali, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lebanon, co-chairs of the ad hoc open-ended working group to consider options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environmental related instruments, in accordance to General Assembly resolution 72/272 of 10 May 2018 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”.

The co-chairs are convening the organizational session of the process from Wednesday, 5 September to Friday, 7 September 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. They are also circulating the draft provisional Agenda for the meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



24 July 2018

Excellency/Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the organizational session of the ad hoc open-ended working group that was established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”.

The organizational session will be held on Wednesday 5 September to Friday, 7 September 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. We expect to start the meeting promptly at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 5 September.

An advance version of the provisional agenda for the organizational session is attached.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277, the purpose of the working group is, inter alia, to discuss possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate, and, if deemed necessary, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument, with a view to making recommendations, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument, to the Assembly during the first half of 2019.

The General Assembly, by resolution 72/277, has requested the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including daily subsistence allowance, in addition to defraying the costs of economy-class travel for one delegate per State for each session.

Limited funds are available to provide financial support, upon request, to delegates from eligible countries.

Should your Government decide to avail itself of the funding support to participate in the organizational session of the working group, please contact the United Nations Environment Programme as soon as possible by e-mail to Angela.Kariuki@un.org and Sarah.Muiruri@un.org not later than 5 August 2018. Please also fill out the attached form and attach a nomination letter from the appropriate Ministry.

We would also be grateful if the Permanent Representatives, Permanent Observers and

Heads of Mission would inform us as soon as possible and no later than 5 August 2018 of the names of their representatives and alternate representatives who will attend the organizational session of the working group.

Members, as well as observers, are requested to register the names of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers through the e-List of Participants module on the e-deleGATE portal.

An e-mail should also be sent to the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme at environmentny@un.org.

Finally, under General Assembly resolution 72/277 attendance at the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be open to relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as well as to those non-governmental organizations that attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

Please accept, Excellency the assurances of our highest consideration.



Dr. Amal Mudallali
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes
Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Organizational session of the Ad hoc open-ended working group, established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018

5-7 September 2018

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General discussion
4. Agenda for the substantive sessions
5. Information on documents to be considered by the substantive sessions.
6. Financing of the activities of the working group
7. Other matters
8. Report of the proceedings of the meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended working group
9. Closure of the meeting.

Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting.

The meeting will be opened at 10. a.m. on 5 September 2018.

The opening as well as the conduct of the meeting will be presided over by the two co-chairs of the ad hoc open ended working group who have been appointed by the President of the General Assembly: The Permanent Representative of Lebanon, Her Excellency Amal Mudallali, and the Permanent Representative of Portugal, His Excellency Francisco Duarte Lopes.

2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and other organizational matters

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277, the organizational session of the ad hoc open-ended working group shall be held for a duration of three working days. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee shall adopt its provisional agenda. The provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the provisions of resolution 72/277.

3. General discussion

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277, the ad hoc open-ended working group is open to the participation by all States Members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies.

The General Assembly also decided that the organizational session would examine matters related to the organization of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including the duration and number of its substantive sessions with a view to reporting back to the General Assembly during the first half of 2019.

Delegations will have an opportunity to deliver statements of a general nature concerning the issues under consideration by the organizational session of the ad hoc open-ended working group, which may include the timing of the substantive sessions in Nairobi, the number of such sessions as well as their duration with a view to reporting back to the General Assembly during the first half of 2019.

4. Agenda for the substantive sessions

Delegations may also wish to consider items for the agenda of the substantive sessions.

5. Documents to be considered by the substantive session.

At the organizational session, delegations will receive a status update from the Secretariat concerning the report requested from the Secretary-General in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution.

6. Financing of the activities of the working group

Delegations may wish to discuss issues related to the Financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

7. Other matters

Delegations may wish to discuss any other matter related to the organizational session.

8. Report of the proceedings of the meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended working group

At the conclusion of the meeting, a report of the proceedings of the organizational session will be adopted.

9. Closure of the meeting

The meeting will close on 7 September 2018.



FUNDING SUPPORT REQUEST FORM

Limited funds are available to provide financial support, upon request, to delegates from eligible countries. Requests for such support should be communicated to the secretariat.

Last name:	
First Name:	
Designation:	
Ministry:	
Passport No:	
Nationality:	
Email:	
Planned dates of arrival & departure:	
Departing from (city/country):	
Returning to (city/country):	

Note: Please attach your passport copy and the letter of nomination from the appropriate Ministry.