



EU & MS Statement for the First substantive session of the AHOEWG on Global Pact for the Environment on the chapter of the UNSG report on Gaps relating to the governance structure of international environmental law

14-18 January 2019, Nairobi

Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We note that the report in relation to the governance structure of international environmental law identifies a number of gaps and refers to fragmentation.

Some governance structures and ongoing processes have not been taken into account; and the report could have identified reasons why the existing structures are insufficient and how they can be strengthened.

Reasons for fragmentation - as also highlighted by some interventions yesterday - can be multiple such as high diversity of the topics and development of instruments under different organizations (e.g. FAO, UNESCO, WHO etc.). Although this can allow for tailored and enhanced action, fragmentation creates a need for mutual awareness, coordination and synergetic work.

Therefore, we fully underscore the importance to achieve coherence between the environmental instruments, in particular to improve their overall implementation, by enhancing synergies, cooperation between various actors and avoiding duplication and conflicts.

In this regard, several efforts have been undertaken or are ongoing among international environment and environment-related instruments and we support these efforts. They need to be taken into account in future considerations.

We support exploring further synergistic approaches between environmental instruments, whilst recognising that Multilateral Environmental Agreements have distinct decision-making processes. We also

support considering this within the UN system (including by strengthening the UN Environmental Management Group and making use of the ongoing UN reform).

The ad hoc open-ended working group should therefore consider whether gaps in environmental governance exist that affect the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation. If yes, such gaps in governance should be addressed and we need to consider which fora would be the most appropriate to do so.

Finally, the EU and its Member States want to confirm the support to enhanced cooperation and coherence on environment within the UN System in order to strengthen mainstreaming of environment into other policy areas.

We are also of the opinion that we should not repeat previous discussions and processes regarding international environmental governance but rather support the implementation of their outcomes. In this context we are looking forward to the upcoming discussions at UNEA 4, including on the implementation of the outcome of the RIO+20 Conference .

We look forward to engaging constructively in the further discussion on governance structures of international environmental law.