



EU & MS Statement in the AHOEWG on the Global Pact for the Environment

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 regarding the chapter of the UN Secretary General's report **Gaps concerning principles of international environmental law**.

We acknowledge that “principles of international environmental law are an important building block and their usage is widespread. Some are included in non-binding instruments, including political instruments, while others are enshrined in issue-specific multilateral environmental agreements that are legally binding.” The compilation of principles in the report is not exhaustive and there may be a need for further work on the issue. The work within this process on principles should contribute to the overall objective of environmental protection, by, for example, enhancing clarity and better interpretation, increasing visibility, improving coherence and consistency of international environmental principles, as well as their implementation, at all levels, and facilitating mainstreaming environmental aspects into other policy areas.

However, further work international environmental principles would need to be carried out carefully. Some of the principles exist in different variations, which may reflect the result of specific considerations and negotiations. In addition, any work on principles must not weaken environmental protection actions and standards nor undermine ongoing negotiations or existing processes, legal instruments and frameworks.

We are ready to engage constructively with other Member States on these issues.