



**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF IRAQ**

**To be delivered on the First Substantive Session of the Session of
the ad-hoc Open-Ended Working Group Established Pursuant to
the General Assembly Resolution 72/277 – “Towards a Global Pact
for the Environment”**

NAIROBI

14th January 2019

**BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF IRAQ TO UNON, UNEP AND
UN-HABITAT**

H.E. AMB. BURHAN AL JAF



Co-Chairpersons,

Acting Executive Director,

Ambassadors, High Commissioners,

Distinguished Delegates, and Dear Colleagues,

At the outset I would like to avail this opportunity to express gratitude to Co-chairs H.E Amal Mudallali, Permanent Representative of Lebanon to UN and H.E. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to UN, for their dedicated work.

The delegation of Iraq is quite confident with your able stewardship and ready to work within your guidance and you have our full support, we have the honor to welcome you in Nairobi.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the esteemed delegation of Ethiopia on behalf of G77 and would like make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

- The UNGA resolution 72/277, has not been adopted by consensus but through a recorded vote of 143 in favor, 6 against and 6 abstentions,
- AS Iraq we think that the SG report A/73/419 titled (Gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments: towards a global pact for the environment) is quite comprehensive and has methodological rigor.
- In the same time our views at this stage regarding the substance remain preliminary, we continue an internal discussion on national level and consultations in regional level and waiting for the outcome of the extraordinary session of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Environment (CAMRE), in order to go through a thorough reflection on the report,
- Our main remark is that the SG report didn't mention anything regarding the necessity of protecting the environment in areas affected by armed conflicts and act of terrorism, while we witnessed during the last two sessions of United Nations Environment Assembly an increased trend in this regard especially its resolution 2/15, entitled "Protection of the



environment in areas affected by armed conflict" which acknowledged *inter alia* the need to mitigate the environmental impact of activities of transnational and other organized criminal groups, including illegal armed groups, as well as the illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources, in areas affected by armed conflict,

And its resolution 3/1 on pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism which *Noting* the long-term socio-economic consequences of the degradation of the environment and natural resources resulting from pollution caused by armed conflict or terrorism, which include, *inter alia*, the loss of biodiversity, the loss of crops or livestock, and the lack of access to clean water and agricultural land, the negative and sometimes irreversible impacts on ecosystem services and their impact on sustainable recovery, contributing to further forced displacement related to environmental factors,

And the Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session entitled "Towards a pollution-free planet" where the ministers have expressed their concern by the legacy of damage and pollution that armed conflict or terrorism causes to the environment, often delaying recovery, undermining the achievement of sustainable development and threatening the health of people and ecosystems.

Quick reading for the report we can discover that the SG believes that current MEAs have some gaps regarding implementation and compliance, and there is a need for a comprehensive legal pact,

In this regard Iraq believe that in case this ad hoc OEWG decide to adopt the report and its recommendations then our view regarding the pact are as follows:

First, the outputs of the Global Environment Pact should support the most vulnerable countries, achieve climate justice and advocate compliance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to enable countries with vulnerabilities to face all negative impacts on the global environment, especially the effects of climate change, desertification, sand and dust storms, Drought and natural disasters.



Second: to avoid as much as possible the political and economic implications in the pact articles with full respect to national sovereignty.

Third: to avoid as much as possible overlapping and duplication with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

I thank you