

Nigeria's intervention in Chapter 2

Madam Co-Chair,

My delegation agree with other Delegations that are convinced that the list of principles contained in the report is not comprehensive. We also note the potential difficulties in attempting to internationalize relatively new principles. However, my delegation is convinced that the usage of the principles contained in the SG's report is widespread, especially those related to the Rio-Declaration. We note that environmental principles complements more specific international rules. Hence, the principles identified in the report and indeed other omitted principles already identified by previous speakers, can serve as important building blocks in international environmental law. Needless to emphasize that our collective commitments throughout the sessions must be as ambitious as possible if our aim in this exercise is to effectively respond to gaps in international environmental laws.

Madam Co-Chair,

2. My delegation is convinced that if States exercise their sovereignty over natural resources in a manner that ensures that activities within their jurisdiction do not significantly damage their environment or to be more specific, environments beyond their territorial boundaries, it would help prevent environmental harms and ensure healthier environment. While we note debates around such precautionary principle, we also know that its normative relevance has been expressed in several international and regional instruments.

3. It is also the believe of my delegation that national circumstances and the responsibility of leaving no one behind were accommodated within the context of the common but differentiated responsibility principle. We support this principle and call on countries with capacity to provide support developing, least developing and indeed Small Island countries to deal with the increasing environmental challenges which they contribute little or nothing to. We reiterate our view that environmental concerns and how best to address the obviously deteriorating climate should be paramount in this exercise.

4. In conclusion, we fully support the intention to codify environmental principles, including the polluter pays principle. However, we would like to know how codifying the principles would help close the identified gaps.