

STATEMENT OF SAMOA

(Gaps in international law and environmental-related instruments: Towards A Global Pact for the environment)

Thank you Co-Chair.

My delegation would like to acknowledge the Government of Kenya for its kind hospitality in hosting this first substantive session on a global pact for the environment and acknowledge the hard work by the Secretariat in organising this event and putting together the Report on gaps for environmental laws.

I join my distinguished colleagues in expressing my Delegation's heartfelt condolences to the people and the Government of Kenya after the terror attacks in Westlands.

To begin with, we will be very brief in our general observation on the overall Report by the Secretary General. Our statement is aligned with that of the statement by Ethiopia on behalf of the G77 + China, as well as share the views expressed by some delegations.

Samoa recognises that there are existing gaps in international environmental instruments, and that we believe there is no environmental law that is perfect at the outset as we expect changes in circumstances and the different contexts from each country, said circumstances as to be expected will also mean challenges and/or gaps in existing environmental laws, hence the reason laws evolve and the necessity arises for the need to address those gaps and challenges.

My Delegation is willing to engage in this process with an open mind on whether there is a need or otherwise to have a flexible and comprehensive framework or global pact that will hopefully address the existing gaps and challenges in environmental laws with regard to unifying and bringing clarity to all environmental principles, exploration of the different roles, relationships and linkages of these instruments, hopefully touch on a process to facilitate better coordination and further strengthen relationships between the different institutions, strengthen capacity at all levels, capacity to effectively implement environmental laws and address existing ambiguity and overlapping functions, amongst other considerations.

My Delegation recognises the need for in-depth assessment, analysis of, risks and impacts of the existing gaps in environmental laws, as well as any potential for a global pact, and in particular, existing environmental instruments / environmental domestic laws and environmental policies should not be undermined.

Notwithstanding the above, my Delegation stresses that more time is needed by the Working Group for discussion and consideration of gaps and challenges to properly inform a comprehensive Report on recommendations to address existing environmental gaps and challenges.

Thank you Co-Chair.