

Singapore intervention (Chapter 7)

- The Conclusions of the Secretary-General report pulls together the points made in the previous chapters. As such, our comments made earlier similarly apply here.
- In summary, we would like to highlight the following:
- In assessing the report, we need to be clear the positive outcome we desire if and when gaps or challenges are plugged. For us, it must be practical. A key purpose must be the better protection of the environment.
- Given that various multilateral instruments have their own mandates and governing structures, we would also need to identify where best to plug the identified gaps or challenges. This is especially if such actions entail additional obligations on countries.
- With regard to the point in the Secretary-General's report that a comprehensive and unifying international instrument that gathers all the principles of environmental law could provide for better harmonization, predictability and certainty, we would need to bear in mind the current landscape of multilateral environment agreement. Any such outcome would have to accommodate the diverse range of environmental challenges, as well as diverse national circumstances. This would indeed be a challenge.
- In addition, we would also need to carefully consider how the legal development and achievements in the MEAs would relate to any outcome of this current discussions. We cannot undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks, and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies.
- Based on the discussions over the last few days, there is no consensus and limited support for the adoption of a legally binding international instrument as an option to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments. In light of this reality, Member States may wish to consider other possible options with a view to making recommendations to the UN General Assembly.
- We need to discuss an approach which is pragmatic, which can gain consensus of the Member States, and which will benefit the environment. We stand ready to work constructively with Member States and the co-chairs towards a conclusion which will be balanced and acceptable.