

Statement by INDIA at the First Substantive 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”

14th January 2019, Nairobi

Co-Chairpersons,

Distinguished Delegates, and Dear Colleagues,

We, express our gratitude to the Government of Kenya and UNEP for hosting this session. Our best wishes to Co-chairs for the work ahead of the session.

At the outset, We align with the statement made by the representative of Ethiopia on behalf of Group of G-77 & China.

We take note of the report of the UN Secretary General.

We reaffirm our support to the process and assure that India will always abide by its commitments and walk together with the international community.

As per the mandate given by the Resolution 72/277, we believe that future work on the subject should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments, frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies.

We reiterate our submissions made during the organizational session that the process adopted should be transparent, inclusive, constructive and member-state driven.

This Process must give due regard to the principles of historical responsibility, equity, justice, common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) and the Right to Development. We believe that permanent sovereignty over the natural resources will be an important factor for developing countries to engage in this process.

The report of Secretary General acknowledges that lack of resources is one of the key gaps in implementing international environmental laws at national and international level. While the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement give some direction on closing this gap, a robust system on tracking the obligations towards financial support, technology transfer and capacity building should be an important outcome for the process.

INDIA is home to large number of poor, marginalized and vulnerable population with huge developmental needs. However, despite our serious resource constraints and developmental priorities, India is strongly concerned and committed towards the issue of protection of environment.

We believe that there is a need for greater coordination between existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); And with this spirit we reaffirm our support to the work of Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group during this very important session.

Finally, we suggest that the discussion should focus on finding common grounds and on supporting each other based on the principles of equity and justice so that “No One is Left Behind”.

THANK YOU!
