

Question 1

What options can be considered to address the possible gaps related to the principles of international environmental law mentioned by delegations without duplicating nor undermining existing law and ongoing processes?

Thank you Madame Chair for your diligence during this process and for the guiding questions that are very useful indeed and that enable us to move slowly but surely forward with this multilateral discussion.

It may in fact be challenging to resolve all the gaps and deficiencies and solve overlapping among various bodies; but the SG report has been very useful to map these and now our work as an open ended working group is to produce a meaningful outcome of this process, namely in the form of an overarching instrument that can be adopted within a certain timeline regardless of its binding or non-binding nature. In this regard, we should bare in mind the following clarifications:

- It's not about reopening already agreed principles nor existing frameworks whether they are sub regional or global. We rather see this collective exercise as one that puts together these principles in one overarching document and also assess their evolution and synergies since Stockholm to Rio to nowadays and identify other principles which might have emerged as highlighted by many delegations before.
- We see these principles as complementing one another and we believe that we can work in a way in which the consideration of all these principles won't create any duplication and it will represent a progressive moving forward. This is actually one of the main goals of our open ended working group.
- The added value of the consolidation of principles is not about reinventing the wheel. This Member State led process won't in any way undermine the work being done by the international law commission and we can move forward.
- We should Consolidate and Focus on general principles that speak to the UN mandate and that address the various environmental issues that are consensual and not the principles where there are divergences.
- In terms of methodology, it would be useful to produce recommendations from now to the end of this session and the following one and identify specific actions to implement synergies among existing environment agreements. We can also view them as challenges for implementation while making sure that it doesn't undermine existing law and ongoing efforts. This process should also be seen as an opportunity to be solution oriented and address

those insufficiencies when it comes to capacity building, transfer of technologies and fulfilling commitments of financing or access to existing environmental funds by developing countries.

- Finally and in terms of governance, we strongly suggest that UN Environment shall be further empowered to be the central agency to ensure synergies between the different existing environmental frameworks and harmonize over time, the efforts in international environmental law in consultation with the Member States. This could also be done through an ongoing forum that can refresh and update the linkages between the ongoing frameworks and the future ones.