



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 April 2019

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 12 April 2019, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter and co-chairs' non-paper dated 25 April 2019, from H.E. Amal Mudallali, Permanent Representative of Lebanon and H.E. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal, co-chairs of the ad hoc open-ended working group established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment".

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. ESPINOSA", written in a stylized, cursive script.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



25 April 2019

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

The third substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment" will take place from 20 to 22 May 2019 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, with pre-sessional consultations scheduled to take place on 19 May 2019.

At the second session, held from 18 to 20 March 2019, we announced our intention to develop draft elements for recommendations with a view to providing a base for our discussions under item 4 of the provisional agenda of the third substantive session entitled "Consideration of the draft recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group".

We are therefore pleased to attach the said draft elements, which take into consideration the views expressed by delegations during the first and second substantive sessions of the working group, as well as the written inputs which have been received. We are confident that these elements, to be considered as a package, can gather the support of delegations and facilitate the fulfillment of the mandate of the working group.

We look forward to the active participation of all delegations in the forthcoming meeting in Nairobi.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amal Mudallali'.

Amal Mudallali  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
Lebanon to the United Nations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Francisco Duarte Lopes'.

Francisco Duarte Lopes  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
Portugal to the United Nations

**Co-Chairs' non-paper**

**Draft elements of recommendations to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly**

On the basis of the discussions held at the first and second substantive sessions of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group established by General Assembly Resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018, together with the written inputs submitted by delegations, and in line with the mandate set out in resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018, the Co-Chairs consider that recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session could include the following elements:

**I) Elements related to the objectives informing the recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group**

- The recommendations shall:
  - reinforce the protection of the environment for present and future generations
  - uphold existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law
  - contribute to the strengthening of implementation of international environmental law and environment-related instruments
  - support the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies

**II) Elements related to the substantive recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group**

- The working group is to recommend to the General Assembly that it:
  - catalyzes efforts at all levels to further the implementation of international environmental law and environment-related instruments, including through accelerating the mobilization of the necessary means of implementation consistent with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
  - promotes further work on principles of international environmental law with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and environment-related instruments
  - invites the governing bodies of the Multilateral Environment Agreements, while preserving their independence, to identify and address implementation challenges in their regimes, with a view to strengthening implementation at the national and international levels



- fosters increased cooperation and coordination among the governing bodies and secretariats of Multilateral Environment Agreements, as well as between them and governing bodies and secretariats of other environment-related instruments
- promotes increased efforts to streamline the reporting and/or monitoring processes of Multilateral Environment Agreements and scientific bodies, as well as invites increased sharing of information between them, and for joint reporting, as and when appropriate
- encourages Member States that have not done so to ratify Multilateral Environment Agreements and effectively implement them
- encourages Member States to strengthen regulatory frameworks at the national level, as well as the capacity of the judiciary to apply international environmental law
- promotes active and meaningful stakeholder engagement in the different *fora* related to the implementation of international environmental law and environment-related instruments
- explores further ways for Member States to support and make full use of the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) adopted by the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in order to foster the environmental rule of law and advance the implementation of environmental law at all levels
- encourages the United Nations Environment Programme, as Chair of the Environment Management Group and in collaboration with the members of the Group, to develop UN system-wide strategies on how they could best support Member States in the integration and implementation of international environmental law, as appropriate

### III) Elements related to the process

- In order to support the abovementioned substantive recommendations, the working group is also to recommend to the General Assembly that it:
  - considers the adoption of an international instrument at a high level United Nations conference, with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law
  - establishes a preparatory committee, prior to holding the said conference, to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly during the first half of 2020 on elements of an international instrument, including on its nature, scope and parameters
  - determines a specific timeline by which the negotiations would take place and reach a conclusion
  - establishes that the negotiations are to be open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and parties to the Multilateral Environment Agreements, with others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations