

3rd substantive sessions of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group

20-22 May, Nairobi, Kenya

Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of Georgia, let me first express sincere appreciation to the co-chairs for their leadership of the process and the development of the draft elements for recommendations. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their valuable efforts and organization of the meetings, and special thanks to Kenya for hosting us.

Despite the fact that there are different views among the Member States on number of issues, different understandings of the gaps in the implementation of international environmental law and environment-related instruments, and still there is no agreement on some aspects, e.g. on the status of the document, there is a consensus inside the working group that environmental protection should be strengthened. Therefore, we see the process in the hands of this working group that can strongly assist to scale up environmental issues at all levels - from national to international - to support more effective protection of the environment.

We consider that the elements for the recommendations are the solid basis for further discussions during this three-day session and, again, our appreciation to co-chairs for this excellent work.

I would like to refer to the Item 4 of the programme of work on “Consideration of draft recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group”, and express our expectations towards the conduction of the meeting in a manner that concrete and clear proposals are provided on each item. We think that we have no more time for general discussions and see this process as assisting in setting up concrete actions that are more effective and efficient than existed ones.

We have the comments on the draft elements of recommendation and will provide them during the meeting. But let me refer to one of the main gaps/challenges when particular countries are not able to implement international environmental law and environment-related instruments on their whole respective territories. Therefore, we propose to consider this issue as one of the main aspects for the recommendations.

Let me conclude by stating that Georgia supports to develop ambitious, but at the same time concrete, subject oriented, realistic, and implementable elements for recommendations with consideration that they are agreed on by consensus to avoid addition of further gaps and challenges instead of fill and meet them.

We express our readiness for active and constructive cooperation and discussions.

Thank you.