

Statement by Islamic Republic of Iran

Third Substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group

“Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”

Thank you madam / Mr. Co-chair,

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

As we shared in the first and second substantive sessions of the working group we are of the view that gaps or challenges do exist in international environmental law and environment- related instruments, however they need to be explored, elaborated and well defined so we could reach a consensus on how to deal with them. As noted before by a large number of countries, these gaps or challenges identified by the SG are based on several root causes including fragmentation of the MEAs, implementation gap, implementation in consistency, insufficient resources, unsound environmental policies, politically motivated positions and the like.

We are of the view that we need to explore the gaps identified by the Secretary General and address them. We also agree that we need to reinforce the protection of the environment for present and future generations, by upholding existing obligations and commitments. We also need to strengthen existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and enable them to achieve their objectives.

The best way to protect our planet is to empower MEAs through removing barriers to performance and focus on means of implementation. This goal will be achieved by exchange of knowledge, transfer of technology, strengthen national capacities, financial support especially to the developing countries to implement their commitment under such MEAs and last but not least, looking into the global environmental degradation as a common challenge that needs collective

efforts by the entire international community, free of finger pointing and blame game. We believe that this is the only approach that could accommodate views of all member states in to account.

About principals we need to emphasize that any steps taken in that regard must be mindful of not weakening environmental protection actions and standards, nor undermine ongoing negotiations or existing processes, legal instruments and frameworks. Golden rule of common but differentiated responsibility, respective capabilities and national sovereignty over natural resources should be regarded as pre-eminent of environmental principals.

Involving the General Assembly in promoting MEA's work and monitoring the implementation of international environmental law by member states based on their needs and priorities, is a way forward, but has to be more elaborated. These are the principles that were agreed more or less by majority of member states. However, achieving these objectives is in no way dependant to establishing a brand new instrument. Many of some 500 instruments that have been pointed out and many of them examined by the Secretary General in his report, have been established to fill the gaps in their time and understandably have turned into yet another instrument that today need to be adjusted. Hasty preparation for a new instrument could enrich our record of proliferation of instruments but, will not serve to promote and protect environment for future generations.

On the governance, the I.R. of Iran is of the view that any draft recommendation should consider more coherent and pro-active approach towards participation of all stakeholders in different MEAs and it needs to be adopted in accordance with international and respective national laws.

Thank you