

Meeting of the Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly  
Wednesday 3 July 2019,  
09:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.,  
Trondheim, Norway

**Note to Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly:  
“Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”**

This document serves as the background document for Agenda Item 2: A joint vision for the fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly.

For further background information the “Report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277” can be located at the following link: <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/towards-global-pact-environment>

**Note to Bureau of the UN Environment Assembly**  
**“Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”**

1. On 10 May 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/277, entitled, “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to prepare a technical and evidence-based report that identifies and assesses possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation.
2. This report addressed: (i) Gaps concerning principles of international environmental law; (ii) Gaps relating to existing regulatory regimes; (iii) Environment related instruments; (iv) Gaps relating to the governance structure of international environmental law; and (v) Gaps relating to the implementation and effectiveness of international environmental law.
3. The resolution also established an ad hoc open-ended working group consisting of Member States and all members of Specialized Agencies, under the auspices of the General Assembly, “to consider the report and discuss possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate, and, if deemed necessary, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument, with a view to making recommendations, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument, to the Assembly during the first half of 2019.” The working group held one organizational session in New York and three substantive sessions in Nairobi.
4. At its third and final substantive session, the working group agreed to thirteen substantive recommendations to be made to the General Assembly. These included, inter alia, recommendations to reaffirm the mandate of UN Environment as the leading global environmental authority; to call for renewed efforts at all levels to enhance the implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law; to invite the governing bodies and secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to enhance cooperation and collaboration; to encourage UNEP to continue to strengthen system-wide inter-agency coordination on environment in its role as Chair of the Environmental Management Group; and to explore further ways to support and make full use of the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V), in order to foster and the implementation of environmental law and its implementation at all levels.
5. As far as the process ahead is concerned, the working group recommended that the General Assembly forward these recommendations to the United Nations Environment Assembly for its consideration, and that the Environment Assembly prepare, at its fifth session in February 2021, a political declaration for a UN high level meeting, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the UN Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5-16 June 1972, with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law, and international environmental governance in line with paragraph 88 of the “Future we Want.”