

**Letter to Member States and Accredited Stakeholders from the Co-Facilitators on the
second informal substantive consultation meeting on United Nations General Assembly
resolution 73/333**

Excellencies and dear colleagues,

We, Co-Facilitators for the informal consultations under the auspices of the CPR on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333, have the pleasure to convey following information to you on the second informal consultation meeting on United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333.

The second informal consultation meeting on United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333, entitled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open- ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277” will be convened between 3-5 November 2020.

This is in follow-up to the first informal substantive consultation that was held virtually from 21 to 23 July 2020. Details of this meeting, including the documentation and statements of Member States, Members of Specialized Agencies, international and non-governmental organizations can be found at:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/cpr-meetings/first-informal-substantive-consultation-meeting-unga-resolution-73333>

The link also includes a summary of the informal consultation meeting.

General Assembly resolution 73/333 endorsed the recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”. In those recommendations, and under the heading “Further Work,” the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA/Environment Assembly) has the responsibility:

“To prepare, at its fifth session, in February 2021, a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 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 outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’.”

At the first meeting, we circulated a Co-Facilitator’s outline document that provided a set of questions on how the substantive recommendations contained in resolution 73/333 could be taken forward. In the meeting the recommendations were, for the purposes of discussion grouped into three clusters of topics: ‘governance’ (recommendations 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 18); ‘means of implementation’ (recommendations 7, 13, 15, and 16) and ‘environmental rule of law’ (recommendations 8, 14 and 17). In addition, the Secretariat

provided an Information Note that provided further technical information on the recommendations. These two documents can also be found on the above-mentioned website.

Summary of the discussion at the first informal substantive consultation

Many delegations expressed the view that the Political Declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting referred to resolution 73/333 should be drafted as a non-binding document which supports and does not undermine existing international environmental law frameworks, conventions and agreements. There were also calls for the Political Declaration to reflect the relationship between the recommendations, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Under the ‘governance’ cluster, there was overall agreement on the need to fully implement paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Declaration and secure the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (“UNEP”) as the leading global environmental authority. Many delegations called for this process and the resulting Political Declaration to take into account the current on-going processes taking place in the context of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP (CPR), that includes the process for review by the CPR of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies and the action plan for the implementation of paragraph 88 of Rio+20.

Many delegations supported further calls to strengthen cooperation and synergies among and between relevant environmental instruments and bodies to create policy coherence, reduce overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination. Other delegations cautioned against discussing actions which were not mandated for these consultations, including engaging in a discussion of expanding the role of UNEP or a discussion of specific actions to be taken by the MEAs and their governing bodies.

Under the ‘means of implementation’ cluster, many delegations called for the Political Declaration to specifically include relevant provisions referencing support from developed to developing countries, in line with previous commitments in MEAs, political declarations and resolutions. Many delegations highlighted the role the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Environmental Law Programme) can have in assisting Member States in their efforts to implement existing international environmental law obligations. Divergent views were also expressed on whether and how financial resources should be incorporated within the Political Declaration.

Under the ‘environmental rule of law’ cluster, many delegations recognized that the existing principles of international environmental law are important building blocks of environmental governance, including for its implementation. Many delegations expressed support for the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and some delegations proposed that the Political Declaration could call on the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme to continue its programmatic support of capacity building for Member States implementing principles of environmental law.

Way ahead

At the first informal consultation meeting it was agreed that we, as the Co-Facilitators would prepare the initial building blocks of a draft Political Declaration.

7 October 2020

Drawing upon the preambular and operative paragraphs of General Assembly resolutions 72/277 and 73/333 and the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 73/333 as well as the inputs from Member States and members of Specialized Agencies during the first informal consultation meeting, we are pleased to present the first building blocks of the draft Political Declaration. The draft also takes account of existing General Assembly and UNEP Governing Council and UNEA resolutions on environmental law and governance. We hope that this first draft will assist delegations in their deliberations at the second informal substantive consultation meeting between 3-5 November 2020.

Sincerely yours,



H.E. Ms. Saqlain Syedah

Vice Chair of the CPR, High Commissioner and
Permanent Representative of Pakistan



Mr. Ado Lohmus

Vice President of the Bureau of UNEA and Permanent
Representative of Environment of the Republic of Estonia

To: Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
 Accredited Non-Governmental Organizations