

**Informal Workshop on implementation of United Nations General  
Assembly resolution 73/333**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

**Argentina written inputs**

**i) Which building blocks under title “Strengthening international environmental governance in the context of sustainable development” might expand current mandates or fall outside the scope of resolution 73/333?**

\* As stated in previous occasions and as a general approach, Argentina considers that the future Political Declaration should remain within the scope of the recommendations of UNGA Resolution 73/333.

\* Argentina recognizes the importance of implementing paragraph 88 of the document "The future we want".

\* The role of UNEP is relevant since the global environmental agenda is structured across numerous MEAs and specialized organizations, which requires a minimum of coherence and synergy.

\* Notwithstanding, we have noted that para 3 of the section “Strengthening international environmental governance [...]” calls upon UNEP to increase its engagement in international processes, including in the health and trade context. From our point of view, this last sentence falls outside the scope of resolution 73/333 as it is not possible to foresee how that engagement could take place or what could be its potential implications for broader processes beyond the environmental agenda.

\* Additionally, we would like to highlight para 8 of the same section that invites the governing bodies of the MEAs to align their decisions with those of UNEA. In this regard, we would like to recall that this type of proposal was not considered by the ad hoc OEWG mandated by resolution 72/277.

\* Moreover, normative fragmentation is an intrinsic part of the very nature of international law and therefore of international environmental law and international environmental governance. Rather than a weakness, fragmentation is a positive value that gives the system the flexibility required to reach agreements and consensus to all parties, according to their national capacities and priorities. Fragmentation is a product of decentralization, spontaneity, and the non-hierarchical character of international law and international politics. Furthermore, fragmentation reinforces a central component of it, which is pluralism.

**(ii) What are the benefits of having United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) as a central collaboration platform that provides overarching policy guidance and sets the global environmental agenda?**

\* Argentina is of the view that environmental challenges can only be effectively addressed through multilateralism.

\* On that lens, UNEA brings in a universal arena where all States and Stakeholders can address the environmental agenda in a cross-cutting manner, identifying priorities and proposing courses of action.

\* We believe that a strengthened UNEA is generally positive, as long as it respects the mandates of the MEAs.

\* Alongside a more relevant UNEA, it is also necessary to strengthen its inter-sessional period, to provide for continuity to its work.

**(iii) What action can the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA ), as a universal body, take that would reaffirm and strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as an authoritative advocate for the global environment?**

\* For Argentina is of utmost importance to achieve full and effective implementation of existing MEAs, especially concerning the enhanced mobilization and provision of MOIs, in particular of financial resources, capacity building, and the transfer of technology, to make developing countries fully capable of overcoming the present and future environmental challenges.

\* If this task was urgently needed before, it is now even more critical, as the COVID-19 pandemic has provoked an unprecedented global depression that will generate more poverty and more inequality if we don t take the right steps both nationally and internationally.

\* UNEA can step forward and provide strong leadership by renewing the call for an enhanced mobilization of means of implementation.

**(iv) How can UNEP increase its visibility and engagement in international processes?**

\* UNEP could increase its visibility by, among other initiatives, promoting a coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system; providing capacity building and support to countries and facilitating access to technology; disseminating evidence-based environmental information; fostering transparency and the effective engagement of civil society; and promoting a strong science-policy interface, in line with provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

\* Additionally, UNEP should continue subsidiarity promoting actions and research on those topics that are not yet covered by specialized organizations or conventions.

\* In this regard, we would like to highlight the work of UNEP on initiatives like the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) or the First Global Report on the Environment Rule of Law, which are based on the best knowledge available and the need to strengthen cooperation across the board.

\* UNEP should support countries, on a voluntary basis, in the achievement of their national environmental policies and plans, depending on their needs, priorities, and capabilities. UNEP could fill a gap through the provision of tools, resources, and cooperation.

\* Finally, UNEP should promote greater synergies between United Nations agencies, programs, and funds with responsibilities in the field of the environment.

**(v) What are the benefits of achieving greater collaboration at the policy level between multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) including the Rio Conventions as well as between MEAs and UNEA and how could such collaboration be strengthened?**

\* UNEP could organize/participate in online workshops where representatives of MEAs could identify and address thematic overlaps in a coordinated manner, if applicable.

\* A similar initiative of interaction could be also considered in particular for representatives of the respective scientific subsidiary bodies of MEAs, which could strengthen both synergies between MEAs and also the science-policy interface.

\* In particular, it could foster the exchange of good practices in terms of the implementation of environmental actions deriving from the mobilization of financial resources, capacity building, and technology transfers.