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**Dear Sir,**


**Inputs and Ideas to the second informal substantive consultation meeting under the auspices of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP for the 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.”**

**Theme: Strengthen the implementation of environmental law with particular reference to EIAs.**

We have the honour to be attending the second substantive consultation meeting about the United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333, and in response to the “Follow-up report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277” we make the following contributions.

NET Africa conducted a critical review of the EIA within the 14 states of the African Great Lakes. To determine to what extent each state fulfils their obligation to inform decision-makers and the public of the environmental consequences of implementing a proposed activity resulting in a significant environmental impact. The role of the state; public and private interest groups examined from the perspective of public interest theory, which shares a long tradition in political philosophy. The methodological approach included a study of each state chosen due to their transboundary relationship. The research concluded that each state implemented an EIA regulatory framework. However, three small gaps in the EIA process required attention. The public consultation process, post-project monitoring and auditing, and EIA enforceability. These small gaps in the application of the EIA require changes in environmental laws and regulation for the following reasons:

The EIA environmental data collection is part of one-off studies or projects, limiting their usefulness. The EIA regulatory framework should be standardized across countries and



regions in Africa to ensure standardized data collection, to translate into time-series statistics and indicators to form meaningful data analysis, forecasting and trends.

These data gaps limit our ability to identify trends and manage undesirable outcomes. In many countries, the official statistics on EIA are inaccessible or difficult to access, are dispersed across different institutions, and the reporting is patchy.

To address this issue of gaps in EIA data. New and innovative means of data collection through communication and information technology is needed, powered by investment from public-private partnerships, civil society and multilateral inclusive partnerships.

The current EIA regulatory framework addresses local, regional, national and global issues with a preventive - precautionary approach. However, inadequate coordination among EIAs. Lack of synergy, lack of ongoing performance evaluation and monitoring requires urgent attention to strengthen the implementation of environmental law.

Your Sincerely,

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CEO NET Africa  
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