

Check against delivery

**OHCHR Statement to the second informal substantive consultation  
meeting on United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333**



**Statement by Benjamin Schachter**

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Thank you Chair. I speak on behalf of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We welcome the initiative to develop a Draft political declaration for a *United Nations high-level meeting, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme* in order to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance.

As others, we wish to draw attention to Human Rights Council resolution [48/13](#) adopted on 8 October 2021. The resolution adopted by a vote of 43 for, zero against and 4 abstentions is titled the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

It recognizes a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right that is important for the enjoyment of human rights; notes that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is related to other rights and existing international law; and affirms that the promotion of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment requires the full implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements under the principles of international environmental law.

The resolution further encourages States to take a number of specific actions to advance the right to a healthy environment including capacity-building, sharing of good practices, development and adoption of appropriate policies; and integration of human rights obligations and commitments relating to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the implementation of and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals.

And it recognizes that the exercise of human rights, including the rights to seek, receive and impart information, to participate effectively in the conduct of government and public affairs and in environmental decision-making and to an effective remedy, is vital to the protection of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

We would ask that parties consider including an explicit reference to HRC resolution 48/13 in the political declaration and aligning the Declaration with the key substantive elements of resolution 48/13. Thank you.