

Statement of the Arab Group in Nairobi

Thank you Madam Chair, I will speak here on behalf of the Arab Group in Nairobi.

The Group expresses its appreciation to the facilitators for their commendable efforts during the consultations thus far, as we prepare a draft Ministerial Declaration for UNGA resolution 73/333. The Group reaffirms the importance of maintaining an inclusive, transparent, participatory and member-states owned and driven process, and as such stresses the need to have a line-by-line consideration of the draft text before us, to ensure buy-in and consensus.

Meanwhile, The Group emphasizes the importance of this political declaration reflecting the key principles of sustainable development and namely the principle of “Common but Differentiated responsibilities”, whilst also including clear provisions on the centrality of means of implementation, namely the provision of sufficient financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building, in order to strengthen environmental governance and strengthen the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

The Group further notes that this process should remain well within the mandate and scope of the 73/333 resolution. Bringing forward any proposals, which fall, outside the scope of this resolution would not be conducive to reaching consensus. In particular, the declaration is not envisaged to adopt the mechanism proposed in paragraph 13 of the draft declaration. This proposal is not within the scope of this exercise and such proposals must be subject to in-depth and thorough consideration by

member states in the appropriate forum in a manner which fully assesses their potential impacts on member states' commitments and their ability to fulfil these commitments within national circumstances without putting unnecessary burdens on them;

The Group also proposes to avoid language, which implies compulsory financial commitments on member states as it relates to the Environment Fund, and as currently included in paragraph 6, bearing in mind that contributions to the fund are voluntary. Meanwhile, the declaration must also recognize and encourage the important role and positive impact of voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund in supporting the programme of work of UNEP.