



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 August 2018

Original: English

**Ad hoc open-ended working group established
pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277
Organizational session
New York, 5–7 September 2018**

Provisional agenda and annotations thereto for the substantive sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Consideration of the programme of work of the substantive sessions.
3. General discussion.
4. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General.
5. Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments.
6. Consideration and adoption of draft recommendations for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.
7. Financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report on the proceedings of the substantive sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
10. Closure of the sessions.

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The opening and the conduct of the substantive sessions will be presided over by the two co-chairs of the ad hoc open-ended working group, who have been appointed by the President of the General Assembly: the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, Amal Mudallali, and the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, Francisco Duarte Lopes.

A high-ranking official of the United Nations Environment Programme will make a statement at the opening of the first substantive session.

2. Consideration of the programme of work of the substantive sessions

The provisional agenda for the substantive sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group has been prepared in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/277. The organizational session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will decide upon the agenda for the substantive

sessions. The working group will, however, decide upon its own programme of work and the items of the agenda to be discussed at each of the substantive sessions.

3. General discussion

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277, the ad hoc open-ended working group is open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies.

Delegations will have an opportunity to deliver statements of a general nature concerning the agenda items under consideration at each substantive session in accordance with its programme of work.

4. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General

By paragraph 1 of its resolution 72/277, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-third session in 2018 a technical and evidence-based report that identified and assessed possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation.

By paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group to consider the report of the Secretary-General. In the same resolution, it decided that the first substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group would be held at least one month after the submission of that report.

5. Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments

By paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the ad hoc open-ended working group, in addition to considering the report, would also discuss possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate, and, if deemed necessary, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument.

6. Consideration and adoption of draft recommendations for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session

By paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the ad hoc open-ended working group would undertake its work with a view to making recommendations, which might include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument, to the Assembly during the first half of 2019.

7. Financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group

The ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to discuss matters relating to the financing of its activities.

8. Other matters

Delegations may wish to discuss any other matters related to each substantive session in accordance with its programme of work.

9. Adoption of the report on the proceedings of the substantive sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group

At the conclusion of its final session, the ad hoc open-ended working group will adopt a report on the proceedings of all its substantive sessions, including its recommendations.

10. Closure of the sessions

The substantive sessions will be closed once the ad hoc open-ended working group has concluded its work.