

Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
4 October 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi Gigiri
Conference Room 4

**Background Document for Agenda Item 2:
Briefing from the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly 72/277, entitled
“Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”**

This note serves as a background document for discussions under Agenda Item 2: Briefing from the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly 72/277, entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”.

At the 4th plenary meeting of its organizational session, on 6 September 2018, the Ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277 agreed on the duration and number of its substantive sessions.

**Ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to
General Assembly resolution 72/277**

At the 4th plenary meeting of its organizational session, on 6 September 2018, the Ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277 agreed on the duration and number of its substantive sessions, as set out below.

Decision 2018/1

Duration and number of the substantive sessions of the Ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277

The Ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277,

Taking into account relevant provisions of resolution 72/277, including regarding the timing of the first substantive session and the time frame in which the working group should complete its work, as well as views expressed by participating States, the need to avoid as far as possible conflicts with dates of related meetings, the desirability of holding one session back-to-back with the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the need to have a number of sessions that provides the working group with the time and space for a comprehensive discussion on substance that enables it to carry out its work and deliver on what was requested by the General Assembly, the need to have enough time “in-session” to allow for an fruitful exchange of views and be efficient in the way it carries out discussions, and the need to allow sufficient time between sessions for consultations,

Decides that substantive sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group be held as follows:

1. The first substantive session from 14 to 18 January 2019;
2. Unless otherwise decided by the ad hoc open-ended working group, a substantive session of 3 to 5 days duration, beginning on 18 March 2019; and
3. Unless otherwise decided by the ad hoc open-ended working group, a substantive session of 3 to 5 days duration, beginning on 20 May 2019.