



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 December 2018

Excellency,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 December 2018, from H.E. Amal Mudallali, Permanent Representative of Lebanon and H.E. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal, co-chairs of the ad hoc open-ended working group to consider options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environmental related instruments, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”, inviting Member States to the first substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group, to be held from Monday, 14 January to Friday, 18 January 2019 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

The co-chairs are also circulating the provisional agenda and provisional programme of work, as well as a link to the advance version of the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/419), details for accreditation of delegations and the special voluntary trust fund for participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. ESPINOSA".

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



6 December 2018

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to participate in the first substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group that was established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”, to be held from Monday, 14 January to Friday, 18 January 2019 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

The working group was established under General Assembly resolution 72/277 to consider the report and 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, with a view to making recommendations, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument, to the Assembly during the first half of 2019.

We are pleased to inform you that the advance version of the report of the Secretary-General with UN symbol number A/73/419 is now available in English and can be accessed on UNEP’s website at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/towards-global-pact-environment>.

The provisional agenda of the first substantive session that was already agreed at the organizational session is attached, as well as a provisional programme of work.

In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 72/277, the working group is open to all Member States and all Members of Specialized Agencies. Accordingly, all these are kindly invited to communicate as soon as possible and no later than **7 January 2019** the names of their representatives and alternate representatives who will attend the substantive session of the working group. Please provide this information through both email addresses: sgb-unep@un.org and Katherine.Kinuthia@un.org.

As far as delegates from outside Nairobi who are attending the substantive session are concerned and may be in need of badges, Permanent Missions or Embassies may submit a list of attendees to the United Nations Office in Nairobi who will issue the necessary badges.

The General Assembly, by its resolution 72/277, has also requested the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular, the least

developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including by providing daily subsistence allowance and by covering costs of economy-class travel for one delegate per State for each session.

Adequate funds will be made available to provide financial support, upon request, to delegates from eligible countries.

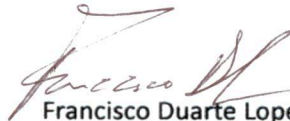
Should your Government decide to request such financial support to participate in the first substantive session of the working group, please contact the United Nations Environment Programme as soon as possible by e-mail to Angela.Kariuki@un.org and Sarah.Muchiri@un.org. Nominations letters should be sent no later than **20 December 2018**. Please fill out the attached form and attach a nomination letter from the appropriate Ministry.

Finally, we encourage regional and political groups to consult informally amongst themselves on Sunday, 13 January, as well as before the start of official meetings and during lunch time, Monday to Friday. We are pleased to inform that rooms in the United Nations Office in Nairobi will be made available to that effect from Sunday, 13 January through Friday, 18 January.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Amal Mudallali
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations



Francisco Duarte Lopes
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations

Provisional agenda and annotations thereto for the first substantive session 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 decides on the following provisional agenda and annotations thereto for its first substantive session:

Provisional agenda

- 1, Opening of the session.
- 2 Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
4. General statements.
5. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General.
6. Provisional agenda and dates for the second substantive session. de Other matters.
8. Closure of the first substantive session.

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The opening and the conduct of the first substantive session 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. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

The provisional agenda for the first substantive session 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 decided upon the agenda for the first substantive session, while the immediately preceding substantive session will decide on the agenda for each following substantive session. The respective substantive sessions of the working group will decide upon their own programme of work.

3. 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.

4. General statements

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.

5. 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.

The Secretariat will introduce the report of the Secretary-General before its consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the second substantive session

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277, the ad hoc open-ended working group is to consider the report and 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, with a view to making recommendations, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument, to the Assembly during the first half of 2019.

At the conclusion of its session, the ad hoc open-ended working group will consider and adopt the draft agenda, in line with resolution 72/277, and dates of the following substantive session.

7. Other matters

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

8. Closure of the first substantive session

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



14 -18 January 2019

Proposed Programme of Work

	Day 1, Monday 14 January	Day 2, Tuesday 15 January	Day 3, Wednesday 16 January
Morning Session 10:00 – 13:00	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 1. Opening of the session</p> <p>Address by the Acting Executive Director, UN Environment</p> <p>Addresses by the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Item 2. Adoption of the provisional agenda, programme of work and other organizational matters.</p> <p>Item 3. Financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group.</p>	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 5. Introduction and consideration of the report of the Secretary General.</p>	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 5 (continued).</p>
Afternoon Session 15:00 – 18:00	<p>Item 4. General statements</p>	<p>Item 5 (continued).</p>	<p>Item 5 (continued).</p>



14 -18 January 2019

	Day 4, Thursday 17 January	Day 5, Friday 18 January
Morning Session 10:00 – 13.00	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 5. (continued)</p>	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 6 Provisional agenda and dates for second Substantive session.</p>
Afternoon Session 15:00 – 18:00	<p>Item 5. (continued)</p>	<p>Item 7. Other matters</p> <p>Item 8. Closure of the first substantive session.</p>



FUNDING SUPPORT REQUEST FORM

Limited funds are available to provide financial support, upon request, to delegates from eligible countries. Requests for such support should be communicated to the secretariat.

Last name:	
First Name:	
Designation:	
Ministry:	
Passport No:	
Nationality:	
Email:	
Planned dates of arrival & departure:	
Departing from (city/country):	
Returning to (city/country):	

Note: Please attach your passport copy and the letter of nomination from the appropriate Ministry.