



Executive Office

Reference: Executive Office/2018

17 December 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to attend 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 between Monday, 14 January and Friday, 18 January 2019 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. The provisional agenda and programme of work are attached.

The working group is open to the participation of all Member States and Specialized Agencies. Its purpose is to consider the report of the Secretary-General on gaps in environmental law and environment-related instruments (A/73/419) and to discuss possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate. Furthermore, if deemed necessary, the working group will also consider 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.

Please inform us by **7 January 2019** of the names of your representatives to sgb-unep@un.org and Katherine.Kinuthia@un.org. All representatives to the meeting are also requested to register online, using the following web portal <https://reg.unog.ch/event/27791/>.

We would recall that paragraph 8 of the resolution, requested that substantive support be provided by UN Environment "on the basis of voluntary contributions" including "all assistance necessary for the performance of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group, secretariat services and the provision of essential background information and relevant documents, complemented, as appropriate, by other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes."

We invite you to share your written observations on the Secretary-General's report. Please send your observations to catalina.pizarro@un.org. If requested, we can post contributions on our website.

As observers, representatives of United Nations Offices, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, other inter-governmental organizations and the Secretariats of Multilateral Environment Agreements, will at the discretion of the Co-Chairs be allowed to make statements at an appropriate time during the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Msuya
Acting Executive Director

United Nations Offices
UN Funds and Programmes, Specialized Agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, and
Secretariats of Multilateral Environment Agreements



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



	Day 1, Monday 14 January	Day 2, Tuesday 15 January	Day 3, Wednesday 16 January
Morning Session	<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	<p>Item 4. General statements</p>	<p>Item 5 (continued).</p>	<p>Item 5 (continued).</p>
10:00 – 13:00			
15:00 – 18:00			

14 -18 January 2019

	Day 4, Thursday 17 January	Day 5, Friday 18 January
Morning Session 10:00 – 13:00	Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal). Item 5. (continued)	Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal). Item 6 Provisional agenda and dates for second Substantive session.
Afternoon Session 15:00 – 18:00	Item 5. (continued)	Item 7. Other matters Item 8. Closure of the first substantive session.