

Statement of the United States
As delivered on March 15, 2019, Nairobi

We take this opportunity to make important points of clarification on some language we see reflected across multiple resolutions.

The United States reiterates its explanations of position, on all frameworks and declarations in these resolutions, including the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework, and the New Urban Agenda.

We support the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; as a framework for development, and applaud the call for shared responsibility, including national responsibility. The Agenda recognizes that each country must work toward implementation in accordance with its own national policies and priorities.

Its implementation must be consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law, and must respect and be without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions.

The Agenda does not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services, nor does it interpret or alter any WTO agreement or decision, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property.

Similarly, regarding the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, our reaffirmation of the outcome document has no standing for ongoing work and negotiations that involve trade.

It is our view that the United Nations must respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and must not involve itself in decisions and actions underway in other forums, including at the World Trade Organization. The UN is not the venue for these discussions, and there should be no expectation that the United States would heed decisions made by UNEP on these issues. This includes anything that weakens our ability to innovate, such as technology transfer that is not voluntary and on mutually agreed terms.

The United States appreciates the work on the Promoting Gender Equality resolution. The United States champions the empowerment of women and girls and knows that only through their meaningful and fair inclusion can we conquer the environmental challenges facing us, both individually and collectively.

We do, however, find the resolution raises significant concerns, and must therefore disassociate from it. Our concerns include the use of outdated language, and references to international instruments and organizations with which the United States has fundamental disagreements.

We are particularly concerned with the references to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, to the FOR ALL Coalition, and to HRC 37/8, regarding which we have previously issued an Explanation of Position.

Our intention is that this statement applies to action on all agenda items at UNEA-4. We request that this statement be made part of the official record of the meeting. Thank you.