

Intervention by Ms. Shanchita Haque, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN in New York, at the Third Substantive Session of the Open Ended Working Group established pursuant to GA Resolution 72/277 entitled “ Towards the Global Pact on the Environment”, Nairobi, Kenya, 20 May 2019

Excellencies Co-chairs,

My delegation expresses its sincere appreciation for your leadership and efforts to bring a fruitful outcome of the process which was initiated as per the mandate given by the GA resolution 72/277.

We thank you for providing the summary of the previous session and also for circulating the non-paper which contains draft elements of recommendations to the GA.

Bangladesh has strong concerns on environmental issues being a country extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts and environmental degradation. We have always been supporting the international efforts aiming at addressing the environmental challenges and welcomed works which attempted to address the gaps in the implementation of the existing MEAs. We believe that more vigorous environmental and climate actions are required for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in developing countries particularly the LDCs and SIDS. In line with that, Bangladesh supported this process of Global Pact on Environment and cosponsored the resolution 72/277.

The draft elements in the non-paper are very helpful to carry forward our work and to have a good understanding of what the member states discussed in this open-ended working group. In the interest of time, I would keep my intervention focused on the non-paper provided by you.

About section I- it is not controversial in our view as it generally reflects what most of the delegations expressed and agreed on. We understand that there was a broad consensus that existing legal environmental agreements should not be weakened, and their works should not be interfered by this open-ended working group. We go along with this section.

Section II- My delegation in general supports the elements here in this section. However, we reiterate that the principles of international environmental laws are the outcomes of prolonged negotiations held year after year and they represent delicate balance achieved during those negotiations. The gaps or challenges relating to the implementation of existing rules and principles should be addressed based on, inter alia, the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities. The exercise to address the gaps should focus on means of implementation of the existing MEAs

particularly on finance, technology transfer and capacity building. My delegation is also of the view that the leading role of the UNEP in the global environment related discussions should be highlighted.

Section III- This section needs our serious attention and careful examination. We join many other delegations who observed that there was no consensus on the elements contained herein particularly on having an international instrument. We emphasize on the importance of consensus in this process. We can embark on a new instrument when we have broad agreement on it. We must be convinced that the new instrument would add value to the existing environmental laws and actions. Without consensus it would be counter-productive to invest our time and resources for negotiations for an international instrument. Discussions aiming at achieving consensus should continue. This session can deliberate on the framework in which member states can continue their discussion and reach some understanding. We would like to hear from you some more options in this regard that we can look into and agree to.

My delegation would constructively engage in the text-based negotiation for a logical, rational and consensus outcome under your leadership.

Thank you.