



Executive Office

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18 December 2019

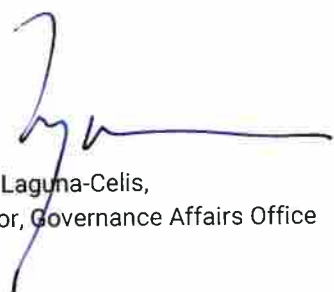
Excellency,

On behalf of H.E. Mr. Ola Elvestuen, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, and H.E. Mr Fernando Coimbra, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Permanent Representative of Brazil, I have the pleasure to share with you a note and a questionnaire on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333 entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277." The note and the questionnaire have been attached in the annex.

Member States and accredited stakeholders are invited to fill in the attached questionnaire by the deadline **27 January 2020**. On the basis of the inputs received, the Secretariat will prepare a summary and analysis by 8 February 2020 at the latest, for consideration at the 149th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 18 February 2020.

The written response to the **questionnaire** should be sent to unep-sgb@un.org

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



Jorge Laguna-Celis,
Director, Governance Affairs Office

To: Ministers of the Environment
Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP
Permanent Missions in New York
Accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders

Annex: Note and Questionnaire to guide the way forward on UN General Assembly Resolution 73/333



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United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

**149th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to
the United Nations Environment Programme**

Nairobi, 18 February 2020

Conference Room 1

9:00 – 12:00, 13:30 – 16:30

NOTE AND QUESTIONNAIRE TO GUIDE THE WAY FORWARD ON UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 73/333

This note provides background information on the questionnaire to guide the way forward on the implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 73/333 entitled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277” in particular, Paragraph (b) of the recommendations in the section entitled “further work”, which provides as follows:

“Forward these recommendations to the United Nations Environment Assembly for its consideration, and to prepare, at its fifth session, in February 2021, a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.

All Member States and accredited stakeholders are invited to fill in the attached questionnaire by the deadline **27 January 2020**. On the basis of the inputs received, the Secretariat will prepare a summary and analysis and by 8 February 2020 at the latest, for consideration at the 149th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 18 February 2020.

The inputs should be sent to unep-sgb@un.org

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 73/333

NOTE AND QUESTIONNAIRE TO GUIDE THE WAY FORWARD

A. Introduction

The Bureau of UNEA at its meeting on 1 October 2019 requested the Chair of the CPR and the Representative of the UNEA President to consult with regional and political groups on the follow-up of UNGA resolution 73/333 on 21 and 22 November 2019. A summary of the informal consultations is available [here](#).

On 3 December 2019, Members of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly agreed on a way forward regarding the follow-up on UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 73/333 entitled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277”.

In summary it was agreed to continue the process of consultations on the follow up on General Assembly resolution 73/333, on the following basis:

- Member States and stakeholders will be invited to express their views in writing on the relevant aspects related to the way forward regarding UNGA resolution 73/333, based on a questionnaire, using the previous questions for the consultations with the regional and political groups as a basis.
- Bearing in mind the contextual relevance of the consultations in the CPR regarding the commemoration of the creation of UNEP by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, a similar and coordinated invitation will be sent to all Member States and Stakeholders to allow member States to approach both processes in a coordinated manner.
- In light of the heavy workload ahead, the secretariat was requested to identify possible dates for meetings to allow member States to further consider the UNGA resolution 73/333. This would allow for an open and inclusive consultation in the CPR during the first quarter of 2020, on the basis of the written inputs which should result in a clear roadmap leading to UNEA-5.
- In the meantime, the President, through his representative in Nairobi, and the Chair of the CPR, will continue to consult with member States on the best way forward to ensure open and inclusive consultations on the matter.

The following note contains a questionnaire on the relevant aspects related to the way forward regarding UNGA resolution 73/333. All Member States and relevant Stakeholders are invited to fill in the questionnaire. The deadline for receiving submissions is 27 January 2020. The Secretariat will then prepare a summary and analysis of inputs received and share this by 8 February 2020 for consideration by Member States at the 149th meeting of the CPR on 18 February 2020. All submissions will be made available on a dedicated website (to be indicated a later date).

B. Background

By way of background, the ad-hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to UNGA resolution 72/277, “entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment” concluded its work in May 2019 with five objectives guiding the recommendations and thirteen substantive recommendations.

These objectives and recommendations were endorsed and are set out in the Annex to UNGA resolution 73/333.

Paragraph (b) of the recommendations in the section entitled “further work”, provides as follows:

“Forward these recommendations to the United Nations Environment Assembly for its consideration, and to prepare, at its fifth session, in February 2021, a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.

In this context, it can also be recalled that member States, at the 6th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 7-11 October 2019: *“noted with appreciation the offer by the Government of Sweden to host a High-Level meeting to commemorate the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and the establishment of the UN Environment Programme. Member States also noted with appreciation the statement by the Government of Kenya offering to collaborate in a joint endeavor. The meeting also noted with appreciation the ongoing consultations between the Governments of Sweden and Kenya, in their respective roles as hosts of the 1972 Conference and of the UN Environment Programme.”* (Paragraph 32 of the [Chair’s Summary](#) of the 6th Annual Subcommittee meeting).

* * *

QUESTIONNAIRE

Based upon the input received, the following guiding questions are set out below.

I. Guiding questions concerning the preparatory process

- 1. The outcome reads: “Forward these recommendations to UNEA for its consideration”.**
 - a. *Under which agenda item should UNEA 5 consider these recommendations?*
 - b. *One option being under the inclusion in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues” or by recommending the establishment of a new item?*
- 2. The outcome mandates: “to prepare, at its fifth session (...) a political declaration (...):**
 - a. *What level of detail should a text have in order to be considered by UNEA 5?*
 - b. *When should the “preparation of a political declaration” begin and what should be the recommended format, leadership and timeline of the preparatory process before UNEA 5?*
 - c. *How can accredited stakeholders be involved, and member States without representation in Nairobi participate, in the process?*

II. Guiding questions related to the a “United Nations high-level meeting [...] in the context of the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP

- 3. The outcome speaks about “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (...)”.**
 - a. *What is meant by “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment”?*
 - b. *Who is expected to convene the UN high-level meeting? What should its format be?*

III. Guiding questions regarding the content of the political declaration and the support by the UNEP Secretariat

- 4. The outcome also signals that the objective of the political declaration is “with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.**
 - a. *what ‘elements’ or ‘building blocks’ in the objectives guiding the recommendations and in the substantive recommendations contained in the Annex to Resolution 73/333 could be identified for inclusion in the political declaration to achieve the overall objective of “strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on*

Sustainable Development”?

- b. How should the political declaration relate to the five objectives guiding the recommendations and to the thirteen substantive recommendations of the ad-hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 72/277 and endorsed in UN General Assembly resolution 73/333?*
- c. Should there be a substantive connection between the political declaration and the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment?*
- d. How should the political declaration be in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development?*
- e. What kind of inputs should the Secretariat prepare in order to best assist member States in the preparation of the political declaration?*