

No. 20 USUN-N-07

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme and has the honor to refer to recent correspondence from UNEP and the UNGA 73/333 co-facilitators.

The United States wishes to express its serious concerns about both the substantive and procedural preparations for the upcoming UNGA 73/333 meetings.

On substance, we respectfully oppose both the co-facilitators proposal to “actionize” working group recommendations and the questions posed in the Co-Facilitators’ Document in relation to each recommendation. There is no mandate to actionize the recommendations, and the United States will not support an agenda that exceeds UNGA 73/333’s agreed language. Member States have the task of preparing a high-level political declaration using the agreed recommendations. This should be a Member State driven process and while we understand the co-facilitators are acting in good faith to move this process forward, we are also deeply concerned that the wide range of co-facilitators’ questions will quickly lead us into a highly politicized dialogue that will result in acrimonious debate with dim prospects for a successful outcome. The United States continues to emphasize that time is of the essence and Member States should adopt the high level political declaration at UNEA-5.

On process, we emphasize again the need for a Member State driven approach. The United States expected to interact with the co-facilitators at planned regional coordination meetings. However, we now understand that the WEOG consultation may not take place until 17 July 2020. Holding regional consultation meetings

four days before the start of the informal substantive consultation meetings (plenary meetings) suggests that our input is not going to be taken seriously. In addition, one of the clear messages about this process was that all Member States would have equal opportunity to provide input during plenary discussions. It was our expectation, and we understand the expectation of many other Member States, that meeting times would evolve in such a way to allow meaningful input from all regions of the world during their respective working hours. We find it difficult to imagine that one meeting time accommodates all global capitals.

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Programme the assurances of its highest consideration.



United States Permanent Mission to UN-Nairobi

July 6, 2020

DIPLOMATIC NOTE