

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 73/333

July 21-23 2020

Statement on behalf of the UK

Thank you madam co-facilitator

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would like to thank the UNEP Secretariat and the co-facilitators for convening this first informal consultation session. We would also like to thank the co-facilitators for the background documents which have provided useful food for thought.

Strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance has never been more important. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating, and unprecedented impact on the world. Never has there been a clearer wake-up call that we need to fundamentally reset our relationship with nature.

The Recommendations from the ad hoc working group, reflected in the Annex of Resolution 73/333, provide a comprehensive list of actions required. They were produced following an extensive series of negotiations and at this stage do not need further elaboration. What is now required is the commitment to put those recommendations into action.

The political declaration should:

- Provide the opportunity for Heads of State and International Organisations to demonstrate the necessary political will;
- Provide an urgently needed springboard for greater international collaboration;
- Build on, and not duplicate or replace, existing structures and agreements;
- Promote long lasting impact which can be monitored; and
- Encourage greater implementation of existing international obligations, and agree greater cooperation between both countries and institutions to meet the challenge.

Turning to the future

While UNEA has been requested to prepare the political declaration at its 5th session, we note that UNEA5 will have other important business to attend to. It will be important to ensure that this process does not overwhelm the 5th session.

With that in mind, we welcome the co-facilitators plans to hold further consultations in advance of UNEA5 and we look forward to actively participating in the process.