



**First informal substantive consultation meeting on UNGA Resolution 73/333
21-23 July 2020**

**EU & MS Statement on “Means of Implementation”
(Recommendations 7, 13, 15, 16)**

Co-Facilitators,
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States on the recommendations relating to the strengthening of implementation of international environmental law including its means of implementation and on the responses to recommendations 7, 13, 15 and 16. Serbia and Ukraine align themselves to this statement.

The aim to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law was one of the drivers leading to the adoption of UNGA resolution 73/333 and is of utmost importance for achieving our environmental targets.

- The EU and its MS would like to stress the importance of mainstreaming environmental considerations at all levels in order to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law. All MS should be encouraged to mainstream the environment into relevant sectoral policies, programmes and development action plans and to prioritize the environment appropriately in their national policies.
- A wide involvement of stakeholders, including the national scientific community, the judiciary and the private sector contributes to the implementation of environmental commitments. They should be better and more adequately involved at all levels which requires availability of information e.g. on implementation.
- Strengthening national administrations and environmental policy departments is crucial for the successful implementation of international environmental law. UNEP should continue and enhance its support to countries in capacity building, institutional strengthening and information sharing through the Montevideo Programme as well as through regional and sub-regional offices. With regard to MEAs, implementation and compliance committees can play an important role in assisting Parties in the implementation of their commitments.

- Financial resources are essential for the implementation of international environmental law. However, actions to strengthen implementation at national level do not always require additional financial support, but can often be advanced by greater coordination between different funding sources and their more efficient and effective use.
- Financial and other resources can and should come from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels. MS should be encouraged to mobilize private finances and innovative finance mechanisms and to use the potential of domestic resources and development funding more efficiently. To achieve this, environmental considerations need to be taken into account in relevant sectoral policies and programmes at all levels. Further domestic resources through sustainable fiscal reforms could be explored.
- UNEP needs adequate resources for its tasks. Therefore, all MS should contribute with a fair share, to ensure stable and sufficient funding through the Environment Fund.

The EU and its MS will continue their support to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law. With the European Green Deal currently in development, the EU intends to scale up its efforts, both internally and with partners across the world, in order to reconcile the economy with our planet and to achieve a green recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and a global transition to a climate neutral and resource efficient economy.