

**First informal substantive consultation meeting
on UNGA Resolution 73/333**

Inputs by China

July 22, 2020

I. Implementation of international environmental law

To a great extent, the gap of implementation of international environmental law lies in the fact that developing countries lack implementation means and capabilities. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities serves as a key principle in the international law and is inscribed or reflected in multiple MEAs. The international community should be guided by the principle and help developing countries to improve environmental governance capability in a steady way.

As the Paris Agreement has entered into the crucial phase of implementation, China believes that adaption, mitigation and finance are of vital importance to its implementation. Thus, the pre-2020 gap in adaption, mitigation and finance should be effectively addressed, and developed countries should commit their pre-2020 promises. Pre-2020 ambition gap must not be shifted to post-2020. In terms of source of finance, public finance should be the mainstream approach while finance from other sectors could serve as supplements.

China supports the initiative of mainstreaming environment into policies and programs at all levels. From international level, UNEP and UNEA should play a leading role in advancing the process. From domestic level, Environmental protection should be integrated into national development strategy. In addition, concerted efforts should be made to address environmental issues, with targeted or holistic approach.

China supports active and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders, and welcomes

non-state actors to participate in the national process according to their domestic law. China stresses that the UN and its specialized agencies, including UNEP, as well as MEAs are platforms and process for sovereign states. The consultations of high-level political declaration is an intergovernmental process, and should be driven by sovereign states.

II. Environmental rule of law

Important principles such as state sovereignty over its environmental resources, cooperation, CBDR, sustainable development and the right to development are fundamental for cooperation in environmental issues. No matter what we take to enhance international environmental governance, there should not be any deviation from these principles.

China notes the contributions and expertise of ILC in compiling and developing the international environmental law. China supports all parties, ILC and specialized agencies to fully discuss and to make scientific assessment on principles of international environmental law, so as to enhance the implementation of international environmental law and global environmental governance.

As for the implementation of international environmental law, China holds that UNEP, MEAs and relevant institutions can offer supports to the countries in need, but should avoid of external interference without the permission of sovereign states.

China believes that UNEP could play a leading role in the implementation of Montevideo Programme V, satisfying the needs of all parties especially developing countries to develop and implement international environmental law, enhancing exchanges of experience among all parties on international environmental law, providing more supports for all parties on the enactment and implementation of environmental law.