

The UK fully supports an ambitious political declaration on action for the environment and thus welcomes the 'draft building blocks' document as a good first step in working towards the final political declaration.

There are a number of components within the draft building blocks which the UK strongly agrees with, and on which we would push for ambitious messaging, such as:

- the need to harness our efforts from across all of society,
- the need for integrated action,
- the importance of science and evidence in policy making,
- the importance of a green recovery,
- and the importance of national level implementation.

Across all of these aspects, the UK calls for strong and unambiguous language in the declaration, helping to drive forward positive outcomes and actions. We see great potential for the declaration to add substantively to international action in these areas and will continue to support the ongoing drafting process with a view to realising this potential.

However, we have concerns where the draft text goes further than the agreed recommendations in UNGA Res. 73/333, for example:

- Certain elements of the draft appear to duplicate or undermine other instruments, agreements or processes and seem to extend an overarching coordination role by UNEP across all MEAs, which in our view risks adding layers of unnecessary bureaucracy, along with associated costs and delay. We believe this could also undermine the independence and effectiveness of those MEAs. We do want to see increased cooperation between MEAs, as well as UNEP, with joined up collaboration to ensure their activities complement one another, but only where this is appropriate.
- The UK objects to the inclusion of the reference to 'agreed principles of international environmental law'. Such an established body of principles does not exist, and we would therefore respectfully seek the removal of this phrase.

The UK looks forward to engaging further, and in more detail, in the forthcoming consultations on the declaration. We firmly hope that the outcomes of these consultations can be both productive and impactful.