

Co-Facilitators' summary for the second informal substantive consultation meeting on United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333, entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277"

Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 73/333 of 5 September 2019 and the agreed roadmap by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP, the second informal substantive consultation was held from 17 to 19 November 2021.

The discussion was primarily focused on agenda item 5 of the meeting, entitled "Consideration of the Draft Political Declaration," a document prepared by the Co-Facilitators with the purpose of supporting negotiations toward a political declaration for a United Nations high-level meeting.

Item 1: Opening of the first substantive consultation meeting.

The Permanent Representatives of Estonia and Pakistan, Co-Facilitators, welcomed and opened the meeting.

Item 2: Address by the Deputy Executive Director.

Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Joyce Msuya, delivered an introductory speech.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.

The Agenda was adopted without comment.

Item 4: General statements by regional and political groups and interested Member States and Members of Specialized Agencies.

Member states highlighted that the drafting of a political declaration under the scope of 73/333 is a member state driven process, and generally called for the second substantive consultation to negotiate the draft political declaration in an open, transparent, and inclusive process. Delegations also expressed their support for the presentation of the political declaration at the special session of UNEA commemorating UNEP@50, to be held in March.

Most members states called for the promotion and strengthening of existing international platforms as well as efforts to support the implementation and fulfillment of existing commitments under international environmental law (IEL) frameworks and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Some delegations voiced their support for closing gaps in the means of implementation, including financial, technology sharing, and capacity building assistance, recalling the importance of the Rio principles when strengthening the ambition for means of implementation, including the principles of common but differentiated responsibility and equity. Other states rejected the inclusion of particular Rio principles in the political declaration. Members of civil society additionally noted that for effective national implementation, civil society must receive adequate resources, technology and capacity building assistance as well.

Some member states voiced overall caution against using the consultation process to renegotiate the recommendations contained within UN General Assembly Resolution 73/333, and further expressed

concern that going beyond the scope of 73/333 could jeopardize or undermine the process to reach consensus on the political declaration.

Many member states voiced their support for UNEP and UNEA as leading international environmental authorities.

Item 5: Consideration of the Draft Political Declaration.

Member states actively engaged in a complete line by line discussion on the Draft Political Declaration, which was prepared by the Co-Facilitators and shared with member states prior to the meeting. Suggestions to the text of the draft political declaration and positions expressed by delegations were maintained by the secretariat.

Item 6: Other matters.

The Co-Facilitators proposed that the next substantive consultation take place immediately preceding the Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in February 2022.

It was agreed the Co-Facilitators will share a new draft political declaration which reflects the positions of delegations expressed no later than two weeks prior to the meeting. There was broad support from delegations.

Item 7: Closure of the second substantive consultation meeting.

The meeting closed on 19 November, 2021.