

Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations Environment Program, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the First Substantive Session of the Session of the ad-hoc Open-Ended Working Group Established Pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 72/277 - “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”

15th January 2019

Co-Chairpersons,

Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and

Distinguished Delegates,

The Group of 77 and China commends the Secretary General for his work.

The Group of 77 and China notes the report of the Secretary-General, and, without prejudging the process, underscores that the outcome of the sessions emphasize existing principles, does not become a technical barrier to trade, and does not overstep the mandate given to it by General Assembly Resolution 72/277 - “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment.”

Co-Chairpersons,

The Group reiterates that principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of “Common But Differentiated Responsibilities” and permanent sovereignty of states over their natural resources continue to serve as the basis for developing countries to engage in this process.

Co-Chairpersons,

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The Group is also of the view that implementation challenges, those of, inter alia, the capacity and the financial means to implement existing multilateral environment agreements should be given utmost attention, in line with, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Co-Chairpersons,

I want to conclude by reiterating the Group of 77 and China commitment to continue to engage constructively in our discussions and wish the co-chairs all success in their work.

Thank you.