



EU & MS Statement for the First substantive session of the AHOEWG on Global Pact for the Environment on the chapter of the UNSG report

Conclusions

14-18 January 2019, Nairobi

Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The EU and its Member States recognise that gaps exist, also beyond those identified in the report, and some of the gaps may need further action.

The report has enabled the AHOEWG and all observers to consider such gaps. However, opinions sometimes differ as to where they exist and the reasons behind them as well as on possible options to address them. Nonetheless, we consider that based on the views expressed in the room this week there may exist a basis for common ground.

Now the next step in this process should be finding ways to address gaps in order to fulfil our mandate and to arrive at clear recommendations to the UN General Assembly.

As many delegations mentioned, not all gaps identified by the ad hoc open-ended working group or by the report may need to be addressed, and other gaps may be better addressed by other fora.

Turning to the different areas we discussed this week we would like to summarise our view, as follows.

First, we see the potential in working on principles with the overall objective of strengthening environmental protection. Such work would have to respect the context and history of each

principle and OP9 of UNGA Res 72/277. In its next session, the AHOEWG should consider to which extent and how to address the issue.

Second, regarding some of the gaps identified in the existing regimes, a recommendation by the AHOEWG could invite these regimes to address them. Like other delegations, the EU stresses the need to respect the integrity of existing regimes and to take into account ongoing processes.

Where no regimes exist, accelerating momentum for political action could be an outcome of this process.

Third, regarding other environment related regimes, a recommendation by the Group could encourage processes and institutions to better take into account environmental considerations, bearing in mind ongoing efforts.

Fourth, regarding governance, we share the views of many Member states that the Group should not tackle the issue of possible gaps, where there are ongoing efforts in other fora. The recommendations to the UNGA could include inviting these fora to consider these issues.

Fifth, regarding the implementation and effectiveness of international environmental law a wide variety of factors play a crucial role. They include for instance enabling policies, mainstreaming strategies and the availability of means of implementation. In this context, we would like to particularly highlight the role of stakeholder involvement, at all levels.

The Ad hoc open-ended working group should consider to what extent it is the appropriate forum to address these issues and in what form to do so. In this regard, we emphasize that there are a large number of ongoing processes tackling different aspects of effective implementation and we must respect their decision-making frameworks. We could, for example, promote greening investments and the sharing of best practices on implementation.

The EU and its MS look forward to continuing our discussions and to constructive cooperation with all Delegations under the guidance of the Co-Chairs towards meaningful recommendations to the UN General Assembly.