



**EU & MS Statement in the AHOEWG on the Global Pact for the Environment on the chapter of the UNSG report on environment related instruments**

**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 appreciate that the report addresses a number of important issues that could have significant potential to enhance environmental protection.

We would have liked environment-related instruments to have been further addressed, including instruments under other sectors with environmental implications.

We recognise that there are many sensitivities associated with the implementation of mutual supportiveness between environment and instruments such as trade, investment and intellectual property rights, as well as instruments under other sectors not covered in the report. However, there could be value in giving more detailed consideration to interactions between environment and other regimes and the potential for synergies and mutual supportiveness, for example, on the role that investments play in supporting or impeding environmental objectives.

We acknowledge that discussions on environmental aspects are on-going in other related bodies and instruments, within their respective decision-making frameworks. This is a good basis for further consideration, and such discussions should be encouraged.

Further, we note that environmental degradation can interfere with the enjoyment of a number of human rights. The EU is open to future discussions around this issue in a constructive manner.

We think the ad hoc open-ended working group could consider options for the UN General Assembly to address and encourage the further inclusion of environmental considerations in a number of interrelated

processes. For example, this could be in processes related to international trade, investment, and the private sector, and in relevant UN coordination structures, and should be done in the spirit of the integrated approach of the 2030 Agenda.