

**Statement by Dr. Aziza Geleta, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia, 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”**

**14th January 2019**

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**Thank You Chairperson,  
Ambassadors,  
High Commissioners, and  
Colleagues**

Ethiopia notes the report by Secretary-General on the Gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments: towards a global pact for the environment pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 72/277 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment.”

**Excellencies,**

The report indicates that it reviews and analyses the body of international law and environment law and related instruments as well as the governance structure and implementation of international environmental law. Accordingly, the report claims to have revealed gaps and deficiencies at different levels.

## **Excellencies,**

Ethiopia appreciates the enormous scholarship, resource and energy put together to generate the report. Ethiopia believes that the Gap Report represents the reality on ground especially the identification of environmental principles and their overall status.

However, Ethiopia believes that list of gaps identified by the report in terms of principle, implementation, regime, international environmental law, the articulation challenge among multilateral environmental agreements, level and status of implementation, and the level of participation of non-State actors can be considered a paramount measures taken by the United Nations to address the fragmented nature environmental legal regime, but it cannot be considered as an exhaustive list.

In addition, international agreements integration would enhance their effective implementations at different scales. However, developing integration frame for all international environmental agreements potentially may dilute obligations of international environmental agreements. Thus, our country and other developing countries would need to stand together to prevent any dilution on the means of implementations and other obligations when the pact is developed.

**Excellencies,**

Ethiopia believes that continuous and constructive engagement by member states will further enrich the document and strengthen our path to provide a strong and effective governance regime with a view to better safeguard the environment sustainably.

I thank you!