

General Statement by Korea

OEWG1, 14/1/2019

Thank you, Co-Chairs,

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Kenya and the UN Secretariat for organizing this first gathering and the co-chairs for their leadership and guidance.

I must also thank the SG for the comprehensive report circulated last November. It has certainly reminded us of the wide range of issues that we need to cover and how complex our journey ahead will be. More importantly, this report has drawn the attention of this group to the fact that gaps exist in international environmental law and related instruments. However, it is still unclear what we can do to overcome those gaps and whether an overarching framework will lead to bridging them.

Our mandate is to consider the Report and discuss possible options to address the possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments. Therefore, we should not be negotiating the text of the Report.

I look forward to an efficient and constructive session ahead. I also hope that the discussion we have will be guided by our co-chairs so that it will be in line with our mandate and conducted towards a direction. If a more specific end goal can be presented to us or if we are guided to one, I am sure we will have a more productive session this week.

I must add that this process will contribute to the mainstreaming of environment issues and heighten the level of awareness and understanding of the international community whether it be the need for a new legal framework or continued efforts to implement existing instruments.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express that Korea will continue to support this process and make efforts to participate in a constructive manner.

Thank you.