



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION, GENDER RELATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Department of Sustainable Development

SUBJECT : Presentation By Saint Lucian Delegate Kate Wilson

Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group pursuant to UN Resolution 72/277 the Excellencies of Portugal and Lebanon, other members of the Head Table: UNEP Representatives, Representatives of the Law Division, Delegates, NGOs, Other interested Parties, Good Morning.

Since this is the first time that my Delegation addresses this First Substantive Session, We wish to thank the Government and people of Kenya for their gracious hospitality and the awesome opportunity afforded us, to catch a glimpse of their beautiful landscapes, and sample their culture.

Firstly, my Delegation wishes to thank UNEP for the funding that allows Small Developing Countries like Saint Lucia to be a part of this very important discussion. We wish to thank specifically, Sarah Muchiri, Angela Kariuki, Katherine and others, for taking great care of us.

My Delegation echoes the sentiment of others before me, in expressing our condolences to those affected by the unfortunate events and hope that all will be well from now on.

As regards the Meeting itself:

The Saint Lucian Delegation wishes to align itself with the broad statements made earlier by Ethiopia on behalf of the G77 and China grouping, as well as that of the grouping of Latin America and the Caribbean.

My Delegation has listened closely to the discussions thus far, and wish to make the following observation:

Many Delegations and other groupings present here today, have criticized the Secretary General's Report as lacking in technical and evidence- based analysis.

My Delegation believes however, the Report is simply to start the conversation going and provide a glimpse or outline of the nature of the conversation required. Saint Lucia believes that it is up to the Member States themselves, to provide a comprehensive analysis of the

International Law, Legal concepts and Principles, that impact their unique situations as well as provide a synopsis of the related International Environmental Instruments that they most commonly use in their work, and cite gaps relevant to their unique national situations, making recommendations as to concrete ways of bridging the gaps from their particular standpoints.

That my Delegation believes, is the crux of the matter; not the Report itself!

My Delegation notes that because this is the first substantive session, much discussion will surround a criticism of the Report itself. Saint Lucia however urges the general body as we move forward, to concentrate not so much on where the Report falls short, but rather on critically examining the International Environmental Law and Legal concepts and Principles and the related Environmental Instruments that each Member State in their distinctive way, have to grapple with, and which pose problems to their own unique situations to make informed recommendations as to how at a Member State, NGO, Civil Society, Judiciary, MEA or other standpoint, those gaps can be addressed.

Indeed, my Delegation believes, that was the intended purpose of this week's deliberations.

Saint Lucia has no doubt that the Law Division represented at the Head table, knows full well that such an analysis, particularly in light of the end game, namely to form a Global Pact for the Environment and specifically, to devise perhaps a legally binding framework to address those gaps, cannot happen without intense discussion, detailed empirical research and even assistance and advice from relevant legal experts.

So my Delegation offers a suggestion for the way forward:

My Delegation does not wish to usurp or preempt the work of the Co-Chairs, but simply to suggest:

1. That the persons involved in the idea of the Global Pact, be called upon before the week is over, to re-affirm the thinking behind this week's deliberations as there appears to be some confusion surrounding that.
2. That all Parties represented here today-Member States, NGOs, MEAs, Judicial Bodies etc., submit ahead of the Second Substantive Session, a comprehensive analysis not of the Report itself, but of the International Environmental Law, Legal Concepts and Principles and the related Environmental Instruments impacting their unique domestic and stakeholder perspectives.
3. Providing specific and concrete recommendations in that analysis, as to how those gaps can be addressed from their vantage points.

This Analysis can then be sent to the Co-Chairs, who will examine them, with the assistance of the distinguished Representatives of the Law Division and other Legal Experts where necessary, and perhaps present a document with those recommendations for examination to the general body at the Second Substantive Session. Perhaps the Head Table can suggest a deadline date by which all Reports should be submitted to the Co-Chairs for their consideration and review.

The Second Substantive Session would then examine that outcome document, with the view to devising if any, the framework which this Global Pact will take.

My Delegation believes that a Legally Bind Framework is the preferred option but is open to all suggestions.

The Third Substantive Session therefore should be reserved for examining whether there is utility in such a framework, what form it should take, and perhaps, setting out an outline or map for the negotiations of the provisions of the Global Pact, be it a legally binding instrument or other option chosen.

Co-Chairs, my Delegation believes that this is the way forward, and thank you for your indulgence.

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