



EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF ERITREA NAIROBI

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The Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea in Nairobi to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in its capacity as Office of the Chair of the African Regional Group presents its compliments to UNEP, Office of the Secretary of Governing Bodies, and has the honor to forward the attached document titled *Proposed African Group Position on the implementation of the General Assembly Res. 73/333 titled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277.*

The Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea in Nairobi to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in its capacity as Office of the Chair of the African Regional Group avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Program, Office of the Secretary of Governing Bodies, the assurance of its highest considerations.

Nairobi, December 2, 2019



Office of the Secretary of Governing Bodies
United Nations Environment Program
Nairobi

Cc: Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Heads of Mission
African Diplomatic Corps (ADC)

Nairobi

Proposed African Group Position on the implementation of the General Assembly Res. 73/333 titled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277

1. The outcome reads: “Forward these recommendations to UNEA for its consideration”.

- Under which agenda item would UNEA 5 consider these recommendations?
- One option being under the inclusion in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues” or by recommending the establishment of a new item?

The African Group strongly suggest that the agenda to be considered under Agenda Item 11 of the Fifth UNEA.

2. The outcome mandates: “to prepare, at its fifth session (...) a political declaration (...) :

- What level of detail would a text need to have to meet the threshold of being “prepared” at UNEA 5?
- When would the “preparation of a political declaration” begin?
- How can Member States without representation in Nairobi be involved in the process?

The Africa Group believes that broader participation is necessary for the legitimacy of the process. Therefore, Member States, especially least developed countries with no permanent representation in Nairobi should be financially supported to participate in the process. The Africa Group also believes that preparation of the political declaration should begin at the earliest possible tie to allow adequate deliberation and consultation. The level of detail of the political declaration should be in line with the General Assembly resolution 73/333.

3. **The outcome speaks about “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding”.**

- When and where should this event take place?
- Who is expected to convene it? What would its format be?

The Africa Group believes that preparations for the high-level meeting should be conducted in a transparent and inclusive way.

4. **The outcome makes reference to “in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP”.**

- What does “in the context” mean?

The Africa Group believes that ‘in context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP’ in Assembly resolution 73/333 refers to the process and outcome. Fifth UNEA will prepare the political declaration, which will be presented to the commemoration of 50 years of the United Nations Environment Program.

5. **The outcome also signals that the objective of the political declaration is “with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.**

- Does your delegation has a view at this stage on the elements that should be included in the political declaration?

The Africa Group believes that preparations of the political declaration should be conducted in a transparent and inclusive way. The Secretariat may assist in drafting a working document, which will be negotiated by member states for its consideration at the Fifth UNEA.