

Dear Co-facilitators, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Colombia appreciates the efforts of the Co-Facilitators in the preparation of the working document to guide this first substantive informal consultation meeting pursuant to Resolution 73/333 in order to advance in the construction of a political declaration with a view to strengthening the implementation and governance of international environmental law. Colombia trusts that we can move forward constructively and purposefully in concluding a document in line with the mandate of Resolutions 72/277 and 73/333, which really contains a message of ambition and commitment to effective protection of the environment.

Co-Facilitators,

In line with the position that Colombia has maintained since the beginning of this process, we reiterate the importance of not undermining existing legal instruments, thus guaranteeing legal certainty. On the contrary, we believe that the greatest value of this process is to strengthening the principles of international environmental law and promote coordination and coherence among the multiplicity of existing environmental instruments.

We know that there is a great challenge, but also a great opportunity to generate synergies, avoid duplication of efforts, as well as making the work of the organs, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies, more efficient and effective.

All this should lead to strengthening the implementation efforts of the States, where the means of implementation also play a central role, including capacity

building, technology transfer and financing; and where the generation of incentives and the participation of all sectors and stakeholders is relevant.

We also hope to advance in a stronger, more coordinated and coherent environmental governance, under the renewed leadership of UNEP in accordance with paragraph 88 of the document “The future we want”.

The work schedule of these three days is extensive and includes a multiplicity of topics and questions, many of which we will not solve in this space. In this sense, we invite the honorable delegates to focus on achieving progress on concrete, action-oriented issues, in line with the mandate of the Resolutions that started this process and focus on its central objective: strengthening the implementation of the international environmental law and related environmental instruments.

Co-Facilitators,

Colombia is confident that, with the will and commitment of all, we will be able to advance in the elements of a strong, ambitious political declaration that supports the process and truly catalyzes the actions necessary for the implementation of international environmental law and the achievement of a truly sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

Thank you very much.