

INDIA STATEMENT
Informal Consultations Under
the UNGA Res/73/333 Of 30 Aug 2019

BY

Ashish Sinha, Acting Permanent Representative

July 21, 2020

Thank You Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

Madam Deputy ED of UNEP,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

My delegation would like to thank the co-facilitators for circulating their document for this informal consultation and the secretariat for its Information note. India aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I would like to add few additional points in my national capacity.

Political declaration should demonstrate the necessary political will of the international community for international cooperation towards the implementation of Agenda 2030 of the SDGs in its all three dimensions, the International Environmental Law including the commitments already made in different Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Reaffirming the Common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR), the political declaration should pronounce itself on the ways to address the gaps in the Means of Implementations identified in the SG's report and in the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Co-Facilitators

The Political declaration should also capitalize on the opportunity of commemoration of the 50 years of the Stockholm Declaration and establishment of UNEP.

India has been at the forefront of the international efforts to highlight the importance of our environment to life on earth. India's political leadership has consistently shown commitment to this cause at the global level, ever since the 1972 UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm leading to our active engagement and commitment to the 2015 Paris

Agreement on Climate Change. It is pertinent to mention that the then Prime Minister of India , Mrs. Indira Gandhi participated in the Stockholm Conference and said that 'Poverty was the biggest polluter, we need to have a balance' , and we find that the statement is still equally relevant in the context of celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Co-Facilitators

India's commitment stems from the longstanding Indian tradition and lifestyle that is rooted in the concept of co-existence and harmony with nature. We are not viewed as separate from our nature. We are part of nature and this grand web of life.

Prime Minister Modi has personally led the campaign for more sustainable lifestyles, living in harmony with nature. He is leading campaigns on improving cleanliness of our cities and villages, and cleaning of rivers.

In this spirit of multilateralism and of a sustainable environment, and reaffirming the leadership of UNEP in Environmental Governance , during the UNEA 4, India brought two resolutions and those were adopted by full consensus, one on the banning of the single use plastic and another on Nitrogen Management.

Co-Facilitators

My delegation remains committed to meaningfully engaging with this process for a robust and forward-looking political declaration.

I thank you.