

**Opening Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia during the First Informal Substantive Consultation Meeting on the Implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/333 on: “Follow-up to the report of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 72/277”**

**Virtual Meeting, 21 to 23 July 2020, Nairobi (Kenya)**

**As delivered by Mr Zerubabel G Tefera**

**Co-Facilitators**

**Excellency, High Commissioner Saqlain Syedah, Permanent Representative of Pakistan; and**

**Mr Ado Lohmus, Permanent Representative of Estonia**

**Madam Joyce Msoya, Deputy Executive Director and the Secretariat**

**Ambassadors and High Commissioners,**

**Distinguished Delegates and Dear Colleagues,**

First, I wish to align my statement with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China as well as the African Group delivered by the States of Palestine and Eritrea respectively;

**Co-Facilitators,**

Ethiopia wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the co-facilitators on their assumption of their role and thank them for their thorough and continuous consultations with regional groups as well as member states building up to the first informal substantive session of “Implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333, entitled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277.”

Ethiopia wishes to thank the co-facilitators and the secretariat and takes note of the information note and the Co-Facilitator’s document. Regarding the

scope of the political declaration, Ethiopia believes that the process should follow the clear scope as provided in thirteen paragraphs of resolution 73/333, from paragraph six to eighteen.

### **Co-Facilitators,**

On the foundational values for the political declaration, Ethiopia acknowledges that the concept and practice of sustainable development have been evolving for the past fifty years. My delegation notes that the 1972 UN Convention on Human Environment through its Stockholm Convention mainstreamed the intricate relationship between human development and the environment; the Brundtland Report popularized the concept of sustainable development, and the series of Rio summit and the twenty-seven principles guiding how to pursue sustainable development. In short, the concept of sustainable development has evolved into comprehensive and universal global actions from a single factor objective of conservation and resource efficiency. Thus, my delegation strongly suggests that the political declaration will be action oriented and will reflect the progress achieved so far on conceptualizing and practicing sustainable development by the international community.

### **Co-Facilitators,**

Ethiopia reiterates the call made in resolution 73/333 for renewed efforts at all levels to augment the implementation of existing obligations and commitments under international environmental law, stressing the importance of enhanced ambition regarding means of implementation, including the provision and mobilization of all types and sources of means of implementation, consistent with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, my delegation believes that the political declaration will contain explicit paragraphs on enhanced ambition on means of implementation in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

### **Co-Facilitators,**

In the context of the implementation of decision 4/2, in particular, the paragraphs related to the CPR based review and commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Program by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972 – Ethiopia believes that the process of implementation of General Assembly Resolution 73/333 should contribute towards strengthening the Committee of Permanent Representatives as the decision making body during the intersessional periods; enhancing the role of UNEA as the highest decision making body on the environment; and strengthening UNEP as the leading global environmental authority within the United Nations system, of course, in line with implementation of paragraph 88 of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want.”