

Algeria

Opening remarks to deliver at the 1st informal Substantive Consultation on UNGA Resolution 73/333

21-23 July 2020

Let me begin by thanking you, the co-facilitators, for your engagement in the process, as well as for your transparent and inclusive approach. We appreciate your efforts in reaching out to regional groups ahead of our meetings to pave the way for successful discussions. We assure you of our support and constructive contribution.

Our thanks go to the Secretariat for its support in producing the co-facilitators' document, as a preliminary guiding outline to the forthcoming exchanges.

Algeria fully aligns itself with the statement made by the State of Palestine on behalf the G77 + China. We would however like to recall some basic prerequisites, both related to the framework as well as to the substance of discussions, that need to be focused on and strive not to drift away from, while building the blocks of the political declaration, as follows:

- 1- These consultations are in no way a substitute for negotiations which should, in due course, be conducted through physical meetings (in-person negotiations);
- 2- The need to stick to the mandate of UNGA resolution 73/333, particularly for the drafting of a political declaration, within the well set parameters, laid out in sub-paragraph (b) under the heading "*Further work*";
- 3- The crucial importance of making a clear reference to the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" as a key driver towards identification of shared burden but underpinned by moral equity, while appealing to implementation of existing environmental law;

- 4- Stress on the need to effectively achieve the overdue strengthening of UNEP headquarters, in Nairobi, as provided for in paragraph 88 of the “*Future we want*”.

This process cannot remain a perpetual postponed aspiration that comes regularly in the discussions. It is an urgent objective to be reached through providing adequate means of implementation. Particularly since we are heading towards celebrating 50 years of UNEP, we, as Member States, are called upon to take stock of achievements, but more importantly to recognize the gaps we failed to fill in and put in place conditions conducive to the fulfillment of the Programme’s objectives;

- Reiterate the urgent need for an active engagement in implementing the Agenda 2030, again, with provision of means of implementation. Given that 2030 is almost on our doorsteps, we have no choice but consider it as it is meant to be: an action plan for people, planet and prosperity, notably recognizing eradicating poverty in its all forms and dimensions, as the greatest global challenge for sustainable development.

At this early stage of discussions, we have to recognize that the only successful outcome could be reached through collaborative partnerships, to achieve the 17 SDGs, dealing with their 3 dimensions of sustainable development, in a holistic approach, for the sake of the Planet but, above all, for the sake of the Human in it.

Let’s strive to achieve that noble goal.