

**First informal substantive consultation meeting
on UNGA Resolution 73/333**

General Statement by China

as delivered by Dr. SUN Jin, Special Representative for Climate Change
Negotiation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

July 21, 2020

Your Excellency Co-Facilitators,
Distinguished delegates,

China associates itself with the statement delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of Group of 77 and China. China wishes to thank co-facilitators and the UNEP for their tremendous work in preparing this meeting. We believe under the leadership of the two co-facilitators, this meeting is sure to be a success.

COVID-19 has posed huge threat to the life and health of people around the world. The fighting against COVID-19 triggers a rethink of the importance of harmonious co-existence between human and nature. Joint efforts by all nations are needed to enhance environmental protection and to advance global environmental governance.

China holds that in strengthening global environmental governance, we need to integrate the interests of all parties and uphold following principles: first, address environmental issues in the context of sustainable development, so as to realize harmonization between economic social development and environmental protection; second, adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and take concrete measures to help developing countries enhancing their environmental governance and sustainable development; thirdly, adhere to the principle of state sovereignty over its environmental resources; and fourth, ensure adequate

participation of developing countries.

Your Excellencies,

China would like to make some general remarks on how to advance the informal substantive consultation.

First, we need to advance the process of political declaration within the GA Resolution 73/333 mandate in a steady way. China believes that the follow-up negotiations should abide by the mandate of GA Resolution 73/333, and fully demonstrate the political will of all parties to strengthen the implementation of international environmental law and global environmental governance, highlighting the resolutions and actions of all parties to advance the global environmental governance.

Second, UNEP should play a leading role in enhancing synergies among multilateral environmental agreements, institutes and scientific community. China affirms and supports the important role of UNEP and UNEA in enhancing implementations of the international environmental agreements and promoting global environmental governance.

Third, attention should be paid to the needs of developing countries with the aim of improving the implementation capability of developing countries. Suffering from COVID-19, developing countries are more vulnerable than before. Parties should pay attention to the issue that developing countries lack implementation capabilities. Developed countries should increase their support to developing countries in finance, technology and capacity building, tackle the root of the practical difficulties of developing countries in environmental governance, ensure the full participation of developing countries.

China holds the view that the co-facilitators' road map conforms with the GA resolution in general, and China has no difficulty to the overall arrangements of three consultation meetings and finalization of political declaration draft before UNEA5 according to the mandate of GA Resolution 73/333. As for the question that under which agenda item should UNEA5 consider political declaration, China is open and flexible.

Your Excellencies,

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in China in 2021, and the theme of COP15 is “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”. China stands ready to work with all parties and make unremitting efforts to jointly draft the blueprint of global biodiversity conservation in post-2020.

Thank you.