

**Opening remarks by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China delivered at the First Informal Substantive Consultation on UNGA resolution 73/333 on 21-23 of July 2020.**

At the outset, allow me to commend the Co-Facilitators for the active engagement with Member States and in making with the help of the Secretariat, the working documents, available in a timely manner.

The Group of 77 and China reiterates the importance of adhering to UNGA resolution 73/333 and the recommendations as contained in its annex, in the course of the process of the consultation on UNGA resolution 73/333 and while drafting the political declaration.

The Group highlights that the objectives and the frameworks under which resolution 73/333 was adopted should also be considered. The political declaration needs to be drafted within the parameters of the outcomes of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972), the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want” (2012), and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and reaffirms all the principles of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, in particular the well-established principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We, therefore, wish that the outcome of these discussions will lead to a more strengthened UNEP in accordance with the “Future we want” and its paragraph 88 in its entirety.

The Group emphasizes that the process on resolution 73/333 and the political declaration should be people centered, and recognizes that eradicating poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and should take into

consideration, in a balanced and integrated manner, the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The Group reiterates its previous position regarding the cruciality of enhancing ambition in the provision and mobilization of all types and sources of means of implementation for developing countries, namely finance, technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity building in the environmental spectrum, consistent with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Enhanced actions necessitate enhanced support and it is crucial in the context of a pandemic that strikes developing countries particularly hard, to further raise to the forefront the importance of focusing on the instrumental role of these recommendations in supporting the recovery efforts that all of our countries are undertaking to cope with the destructive impacts of the current situation.

The Group stresses the importance that this process does not undermine the existing obligations and frameworks. This process should increase support for the multilateralism's exercise. Any mention to innovative financing or private sector financing should be supplementary to the financing structures under the existing frameworks and conventions.

In addition, the Group stresses on the importance of synergies and complementarity across the various environmental conventions and agreements. This would be an excellent means to push forward the environmental agenda without creating new obligations. The current shortfalls in the work of the MEAs is primary due to the lack of implementation, underpinned by no provision of adequate means and synergies.

Finally, the Group of 77 and China believes that it is very important to highlight the role of the CPR within UNEP's role as a key decision-making body in the intersessional period.