

## USA Statement UNGA 73/333

September 14, 2020

Thank you.

The United States of America congratulates the co-facilitators for their efforts at the July meetings and thanks both the co-chairs and the Secretariat for the timely report prepared for this meeting.

Before the July meetings took place, we were concerned that the background documents provided by the secretariat and the co-facilitators suggested reopening many of the difficult political issues that nearly derailed the working group process last year. We hypothesized that extensive discussion of these issues was unlikely to yield broader consensus and we proposed to use the time available to begin the preparation of the the high level political declaration to be adopted at UNEA-5 as mandated to us by UNGA, using the working group's agreed recommendations.

The co-chairs' summary of the July 2020 meetings captures the very divergent views that exist on nearly all of the substantive topics that were discussed at the July meetings. We also believe that that the co-chairs' summary illustrates that it will be nearly impossible to find innovative ways to “actionize” the working group recommendations.

We therefore urge the co-chairs to use the next substantive meeting in November to begin the task of preparing a high-level political declaration using the agreed recommendations.

Our final point colleagues considers the big picture of UNEP, UNEP@50, UNEA-5, and Stockholm+50. In our post pandemic world, we need to consolidate meetings, consolidate outcomes, and to make the most of the limited resources available to us. In short, our workload needs to be decreased, not expanded. Let us work on a streamlined high level political declaration that upholds the elements of 73/333 in a concise and meaningful statement.

Thank you very much.