

Recommendations, as agreed by the working group (22 May 2019)

The ad hoc open-ended working group established by General Assembly Resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment” recommends to the General Assembly the following:

1. Objectives guiding the recommendations:

- a) reinforce the protection of the environment for present and future generations
- b) uphold respective obligations and commitments under international environmental law of States members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies
- c) contribute to the strengthening of implementation of international environmental law and environment-related instruments
- d) support the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the outcome of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+20), including its paragraphs 88 and 89
- e) not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies

2. Substantive recommendations:

- a) reaffirms the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, and the role of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)
- b) calls for renewed efforts at all levels to enhance 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 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- c) recognizes the role of discussions on principles of international environmental law for enhancing the implementation of international environmental law, also noting the ongoing work in the International Law Commission on general principles of law
- d) invites the scientific community to further their work on interconnected and crosscutting issues by sharing information among the leading scientific, technical and technological bodies that inform the work of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and environmental processes, as well encourages the scientific, technical and technological bodies to strengthen cooperation among themselves
- e) invites the governing bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, while preserving their independence and respective mandates, to increase their efforts to promote policy coherence across environmental instruments at all relevant levels and to consider identifying and addressing implementation challenges in their regimes, with a view to strengthening implementation at the national and international level
- f) invites the governing bodies and secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to enhance cooperation and collaboration among themselves within the scope of their respective mandates, as well as between them and UNEP and UNEA, building on work already done

- g) encourages the governing bodies of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and scientific, technical and technological bodies to exchange information and experiences, including with a view to considering the streamlining of reporting and/or monitoring processes
- h) encourages all that have not done so to consider ratifying Multilateral Environmental Agreements and to effectively implement them
- i) encourages States members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies to strengthen, where needed, environmental laws, policies and regulatory frameworks at the national level, as well as the capacities across all sectors for the effective implementation of international environmental law, including the administrative and justice sectors in accordance with national legal systems, while acknowledging the importance of international cooperation in supporting and complementing national actions
- j) encourages States members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies to mainstream environment into sectoral policies and programs at all levels, including into national development and sustainable development plans, to enhance the implementation of international environmental law and applicable environment-related instruments
- k) encourages active and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders at all levels in the different *fora* related to the implementation of international environment law and environment-related instruments
- l) explores further ways for States members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies to support and make full use of the Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) adopted by the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in order to foster the environmental rule of law and advance the implementation of environmental law at all levels
- m) encourages the United Nations Environment Program, as Chair of the Environment Management Group (EMG) and in collaboration with the members of the Group, to continue to strengthen system-wide inter-agency coordination on environment and to call for active involvement and support of all EMG members for the implementation of system-wide strategies on the environment

3. Consideration of further work:

The working group recommends that the General Assembly:

- a) Circulates the above-mentioned recommendations and make them available to States members of the United Nations and members of Specialized Agencies and the Governing Bodies of Multilateral Environment Agreements for their consideration and action, as appropriate
- b) Forwards these recommendations to the United Nations Environment Assembly for its consideration, and to prepare, at its fifth session in February 2021, a political declaration for a UN high level meeting subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UN Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5-16 June 1972, with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law, and international environmental governance in line with paragraph 88 of the “Future we Want”.