



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 August 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 August 2018, from H.E. Francisco António Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal and H.E. Amal Mudallali, Permanent Representative of Lebanon, co-chairs of the ad hoc open-ended working group to consider options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environmental related instruments, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”.

This is further to the co-chairs’ letter of 24 July 2018 whereby they informed delegations that they are convening the organizational session of the working group from Wednesday, 5 September to Friday, 7 September 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The co-chairs are also circulating the Programme of Work for the organizational session as well as an advance version of the provisional agenda for the substantive sessions together with its annotations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



7 August 2018

Excellency/Dear Colleague,

Further to our invitation letter of 24 July 2018 to participate in the organizational session of the ad hoc open ended working group that was established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment" that will be held from Wednesday, 5 September to Friday, 7 September 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, I would like to inform you that the provisional agenda for the organizational session has been issued as A/AC.289/1.

We are also pleased to attach the draft Programme of Work for the organizational session.

During the organizational session, it is expected that Member States will discuss the agenda for the substantive sessions. Accordingly, please find attached an advance version of the provisional agenda for the substantive sessions together with its annotations.

Members, as well as observers, are also requested to register the names of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers attending the organizational session through the e-List of Participants module on the e-deleGATE portal.

An e-mail should also be sent as soon as possible to the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme at environmentny@un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amal Mudallali'.

Dr. Amal Mudallali
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco Duarte Lopes'.

Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes
Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations



5-7 September 2018

Proposed Programme of Work

	Day 1, Tuesday 5 September	Day 2, Wednesday 6 September	Day 3, Thursday 7 September
Morning Session 10:00 – 13:00	<p>Opening Session Chair: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal). (Chair)</p> <p>Item 1. Opening of the meeting</p> <p>Address by H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly</p> <p>Addresses by the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Item 2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and other organizational matters.</p> <p>Item 3. General discussion</p>	<p>Item 3 (continued). Chair: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 4. Agenda for the substantive sessions</p>	<p>Item 5. Information on documents to be considered by the substantive sessions Chair: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 6. Financing of the activities of the working group</p>



Organizational session of the Ad hoc
open-ended working group, established
by General Assembly 72/277

Proposed Programme of Work

5-7 September 2018

<p>Afternoon Session</p> <p>15:00 – 18:00</p>	<p>General Discussion continues</p>	<p>Item 4. <i>(continued)</i> Chair: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Agenda for the substantive sessions</p>	<p>Item 7. Other matters Chair: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 8. Adoption of the draft report of the proceedings of the meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended working group</p> <p>Item 9. Closure of the meeting</p>
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ADVANCE VERSION

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Substantive sessions of the Ad hoc open-ended working group, established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Consideration of the programme of work of the substantive session.
3. General discussion
4. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General
5. Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment related instruments
6. Consideration and adoption of draft recommendations to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.
7. Financing of the activities of the Ad hoc open-ended working group
8. Other matters
9. Report of the proceedings of the substantive sessions of the Ad hoc open-ended working group

Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting.

The opening as well as the conduct of the substantive sessions will be presided over by the two co-chairs of the ad hoc open ended working group who have been appointed by the President of the General Assembly: The Permanent Representative of Lebanon, Her Excellency Amal Mudallali, and the Permanent Representative of Portugal, His Excellency Francisco Duarte Lopes.

A high ranking official of the United Nations Environment Programme will make a statement at the opening of the first substantive session.

2. Consideration of the programme of work of the substantive session.

The provisional agenda for the substantive sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group has been prepared in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/277. The organizational session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will decide upon the agenda for the substantive

sessions. However, it will be for each substantive session to decide upon its own programme of work and which elements of the agenda it will discuss at each session.

3. General discussion

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277, the ad hoc open-ended working group is open to the participation by all States Members of the United Nations and all members of the specialized agencies.

Delegations will have an opportunity to deliver statements of a general nature concerning the agenda items under consideration at each substantive session in accordance with its programme of work.

4. Consideration of the Secretary-General's report

By operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 72/277 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session in 2018 a technical and evidence-based report that identifies and assesses possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation.

By operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly decided that the ad hoc open-ended working group, would consider the report of the Secretary-General and that the first substantive session had to be held at least one month after the submission of that report.

5. Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment related instruments

By operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly decided also that the ad hoc open-ended working group in addition to considering the report would also discuss possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate, and, if deemed necessary, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument.

6. Consideration and adoption of draft recommendations to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

By operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly also decided that the ad hoc open-ended working group could make recommendations to the Assembly during the first half of 2019, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument.

7. Financing of the activities of the Ad hoc open-ended working group

The Ad hoc open-ended working group may wish to discuss matters relating to the financing of the working group.

8. Other matters

Delegations may wish to discuss any other matter related to each substantive session in accordance with its programme of work.

9. Report of the proceedings of the substantive sessions of the Ad hoc open-ended working group

At the conclusion of its final session, a single report of the proceedings of all the substantive sessions will be adopted including its recommendations.
