



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 February 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 February 2019, from H.E. Amal Mudallali, Permanent Representative of Lebanon and H.E. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal, 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”, inviting Member States to the second substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group, to be held from Monday, 18 March to Wednesday, 20 March 2019 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

The co-chairs also wish to circulate the provisional agenda and provisional programme of work, as well as a funding support request form for the second substantive session.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "ME ESPINOSA".

Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



20 February 2019

Excellencies,

We have the honour to invite you to participate in the second substantive 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", to be held from Monday, 18 March to Wednesday, 20 March 2019 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

The working group was established under General Assembly resolution 72/277 to consider the report of the Secretary-General on possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation, and to 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, with a view to making recommendations, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument, to the Assembly during the first half of 2019.

At its first substantive session held from 14 to 18 January 2019, the working group discussed, inter alia, the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/419) and the Co-Chairs' summary of that session can be accessed on UN Environment's website at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/towards-global-pact-environment>

The provisional agenda of the second substantive session that was agreed at the first substantive session is attached, as well as a provisional programme of work. As previously indicated, taking into consideration all views expressed during the first substantive session, together with the inputs submitted in response to the request made in our letter dated 25 January, we plan to provide elements to structure and guide the discussions at the next session under item 4 of the provision agenda entitled "Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments as appropriate". This will be done in due course and sufficiently ahead of the second substantive session.

In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 72/277, the working group is open to all Member States and all Members of Specialized Agencies. Accordingly, all these are kindly invited to communicate as soon as possible, and no later than **1 March 2019**, the names of their representatives and alternate representatives who will attend the substantive session of the working group. Please provide this information through both email addresses: Catalina.Pizarro@un.org and Katherine.Kinuthia@un.org

Registration for the working group for the second substantive session will be through the registration website that can be accessed at <https://reg.unog.ch/event/28713/>. All representatives to the meeting are requested to register online, using that web portal

The General Assembly, by its resolution 72/277, has also requested the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including by providing daily subsistence allowance and by covering costs of economy-class travel for one delegate per State for each session

Adequate funds will be made available to provide financial support, upon request, to delegates from eligible countries.

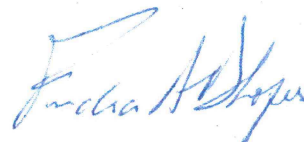
Should your Government decide to request such financial support to participate in the second substantive session of the working group, please send an official nomination letter as soon as possible, and no later than **28 February 2019**, by e-mail to Angela.Kariuki@un.org and Sarah.Muchiri@un.org. Nomination letters from the appropriate Ministry **must** be accompanied by a completed funding form (attached) and a copy of the biodata page of the passport of the nominated government representative. Please be informed that funding is only available to **one delegate** per eligible country. The United Nations Environment Programme will not be able to act upon requests where there is a nomination of more than one delegate.

Finally, we encourage regional and political groups to consult informally amongst themselves on Sunday, 17 March 2019, as well as before the start of official meetings and during lunch time, Monday to Wednesday. We are pleased to inform that rooms in the United Nations Office in Nairobi will be made available for that purpose from Sunday, 17 March 2019 through Wednesday, 20 March 2019.

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



Amal Mudallali
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations



Francisco Duarte Lopes
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Portugal to the United Nations

**Ad hoc open-ended working group
established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277
Second substantive session
Nairobi**

**Provisional agenda of the second substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working
group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
3. Financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
4. Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate.
5. Provisional agenda and dates for the third substantive session.
6. Other matters.
7. Closure of the second substantive session.



FUNDING SUPPORT REQUEST FORM

Limited funds are available to provide financial support, upon request, to delegates from eligible countries. Requests for such support should be communicated to the secretariat.

Last name:	
First Name:	
Designation:	
Ministry:	
Passport No:	
Nationality:	
Email:	
Mobile Number:	
Planned dates of arrival & departure:	
Departing from (city/country):	
Returning to (city/country):	

Note: Please attach your passport copy and the letter of nomination from the appropriate Ministry.



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

18 -20 March 2019

Proposed Programme of Work

	Day 1, Monday 18 March	Day 2, Tuesday 19 March	Day 3, Wednesday 20 March
Morning Session 10:00 – 13:00	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 1. Opening of the session</p> <p>Addresses:</p> <p>Acting Executive Director, Joyce Msuya; and the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Item 2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and programme of work.</p> <p>Item 3. Financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group.</p>	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 4. Introduction and discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Co-Chairs: Ambassador Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) and Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal).</p> <p>Item 4 (continued). Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment related-instruments, as appropriate.</p>
Afternoon Session 15:00 – 18:00	<p>Item 4. Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Item 4 (continued). Discussion of possible options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Item 5 Provisional agenda and dates for the third substantive session.</p> <p>Item 6 Other matters.</p> <p>Item 7 Closure of the second substantive session.</p>