



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 April 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 April 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 established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment".

The aforementioned letter is an invitation to participate in the third substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group, which will be held from Monday, 20 May 2019, to Wednesday, 22 May 2019, with pre-session consultations to be held on Sunday, 19 May 2019, at the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

Also attached herewith are: the provisional agenda for the third substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group, as agreed to at the second substantive session; the programme of work as proposed by the co-chairs of the working group; and the funding request form which must be submitted as per the instructions contained in the letter by any delegations wishing to request funding to support their participation.

Allow me, excellency, to wish your delegation fruitful discussions in this substantive session and in your consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. ESPINOSA", written over a faint blue stamp.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



12 April 2019

Excellencies,

We have the honour to invite you to participate in the third 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, 20 May to Wednesday, 22 May 2019, with pre-sessional consultations to be held on Sunday, 19 May 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.

The working group held its first substantive session from 14 to 18 January 2019 and its second substantive session from 18 -20 March 2019. The Co-Chairs' summary of each session can be accessed on the United Nations Environment Programme's website at:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/towards-global-pact-environment>.

The provisional agenda of the third substantive session that was agreed at the second substantive session is attached, as well as a provisional programme of work.

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 May 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 third substantive session of the working group will be through the website at <https://reg.unog.ch/event/29393/>. All representatives to the meeting are requested to register online, using that web portal and register latest, 1 May 2019.

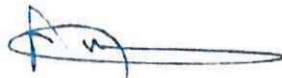
The General Assembly, by its resolution 72/277, has also requested the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in 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 third substantive session of the working group, please send an official nomination letter as soon as possible, and no later than **1 May 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 as Co-Chairs will be in Nairobi and available to meet with delegations from Saturday, 18 May, in the afternoon. There will be pre-session consultations on **Sunday, 19 May** and we will be providing details of those consultations at a later date. We also encourage regional and political groups to consult informally amongst themselves, including on Sunday 19 May, 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 Saturday afternoon, 18 May through Wednesday, 22 May 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



General Assembly

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

Third substantive session

Nairobi, 20–22 May 2019

Provisional agenda for the third 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. Statement on the financing of the activities of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
 4. Consideration of the draft recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
 5. Consideration of the draft report of the ad hoc open-ended working group.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Closure of the session.
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Third Substantive session of the Ad hoc open-ended working group, established by General Assembly 72/277

Proposed Programme of Work

20-22 May 2019

	Day 1, Monday 20 May	Day 2, Tuesday 21 May	Day 3, Wednesday 22 May
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 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. (continued). Consideration of the draft recommendations 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 (continued). Consideration of the draft recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group</p>
	Afternoon Session 15:00 – 18:00	<p>Item 4. Consideration of the draft recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group</p>	<p>Item 4 (continued). Consideration of the draft recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group</p>



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.