

Bangladesh Statement on OEWG of ‘Pact on Environment’, Nairobi 14 January 2019

Bangladesh aligns its statement with that of G-77 and China delivered by Ethiopia. At the outset, let me thank the co-chairs for their whole hearted efforts for making the process a success. I would also like to express our appreciation for the Government of Kenya and UNEP for organizing this meeting.

Considering the loss of the number of people and resources, Bangladesh could be judged as the most adversely affected country of the world due to global environmental degradation. Just 1 degree centigrade increase of global temperature will result into displacement of 40 Million people by the end of this century. 2% of our GDP is regularly lost for natural calamities and environmental degradation. In the face of such grave scenario, Bangladesh supports any collective effort and innovative solution to fight environmental degradation and climate change. Protection of environment is a constitutional obligation for us and due to the constant environmental existential threat, Bangladesh favorably considers any endeavor to protect and improve our environment.

In the same line, we co-sponsored the GA resolution with the hope that this effort would put focus on countries in extremely precarious situations like Bangladesh. We welcome the report of the Secretary General as it comprehensively highlighted the possible gaps

in the global environmental regime. However, we believe that the report is the beginning of a long process and not an end in itself. There are issues which the report did not mention and may be this was deliberately done to leave those issues for the Member States to decide. We have lot of accomplishments in the realm of environment and Secretary General's report is a testimony to that. But at the same time the gaps mentioned by the report merit our serious consideration because this will further complement our existing arrangements and efforts. So, we should invest our time and energy to discuss the findings of the report and its recommendations for the benefit of our peoples.

We believe that global problems require global solutions and with this belief we are participating in this consultation process without having any pre-determined idea about the outcome of the process. Pre-judging the outcome will only limit our options. However, as a developing country which contributed almost nothing to the process of environmental degradation and climate change and which adheres to all the international arrangements and agreements both in letter and in spirit in spite of severe resource constrains, we hope that we will follow certain principles in our consultation.

First, we cannot roll back our achievements and this issue will not be used as an excuse to introduce newer restrictions in other fields. Then, we should not undermine existing current environmental

arrangements unless we can make them better through consensus. Next, the universally accepted principle of common but differentiated responsibility will prevail under any outcome for the developing countries and adequate financial and technological assistances should be made available to the requiring countries so that they can meaningfully contribute to the process. Lastly, though Bangladesh attaches highest importance to the issue of sovereignty of the Member States, we also hope that Member States will voluntarily make reasonable compromises rising above their individual political objectives and purposes as environmental issues cannot be tackled by countries in isolation.

The delegation of Bangladesh will be constructively engaged with the process and we hope that under the able guidance of both of you, we will achieve a win-win solution for all.

Thank you very much.