



SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT

DURING THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TOWARDS THE GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

19 MARCH 2019

NAIROBI

My delegation supports the initiative as it could clarify all relevant principles of environmental law which would lead to common understanding of international environmental law that could enhance understanding, cooperation and coordination of the law.

It is important that we work together to ensure that the initiative achieves its purpose of progressively developing international law and strengthening multilateral approaches to sustainable development and environmental challenges.

What will also need to ensure is that any outcome from this process does not have unintended consequences of weakening existing environmental law or arrangements.

through lowest common denominator approaches, or casting doubt on legal obligations and undertakings under existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Any overarching international treaty or Global Pact must clarify its legal status vis-à-vis the existing agreements, which take many different forms and it must be progressive and contribute constructively towards addressing global environmental challenges.

My delegation, as already expressed in the room, is of the view that the principles of fundamental importance, such as equity, right to development, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities must be upheld. In addition the principle of principle of common heritage of mankind in relation to areas beyond national jurisdiction should be of consideration.

The Working Group could be to compile a list of legal principles that are accepted or contested amongst UN Member States, as this will go a long way towards shaping the Global Pact.

Lastly, co-chairs my delegation wishes to add its voice on the imperative need for accelerated means of implementation. We see this as one of the gaps.

We look forward to engaging the recommendations submitted by Member States in this regard.