

- Thank you Co-Chairs for these draft elements. Broadly, we think that the text provides a basis to advance our discussions. Nevertheless, we have comments where we think further discussion is needed.
- Regarding to the first section, our delegation is of the view that the elements contained in it broadly reflect the fundamental principles we need to maintain in any effort to address possible gaps.

We believe that there is generally consensus on the need to uphold these principles. For instance, we are of the view that it is key that our work should not undermine existing legal instruments and frameworks, and that existing obligations and commitments under international environment law should be upheld.

- Further, our understanding is that the outcomes of the OEWG will be based on consensus. As such, all member states here should be fully informed as to the content of these recommendations. For the third bullet point, while we agree with the notion of strengthening the implementation of international environmental law, there is ambiguity over the term “environment-related instruments”. These could relate to international, regional or even domestic instruments. To remove this ambiguity, we propose that the third bullet point be amended to read:

“contribute to the strengthening of implementation of international environmental law **and appropriate international** environment-related instruments.”

This comment also applies to the other sections.

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- For the second section, our delegation has a few comments.
- The fourth and fifth bullet points uses the words “fosters” and “promotes”. This could imply that the GA is responsible for *fostering increased cooperation and coordination among the governing bodies* and *promoting increased efforts to streamline reporting and monitoring*. This could impinge on the mandates of these bodies.
- As such, it might be useful to include the phrase “, without impinging upon the mandates of these bodies” at the end of the fourth and fifth bullet points.

- To be clear, we are not against the concepts contained in these bullet points. Nevertheless, we would like to be careful about how possible recommendations to the GA are characterised, to avoid confusion down the road. It would also enable the UNGA and the MEAs to be clear about their respective roles and avoid duplication of efforts and overstepping of boundaries.

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- For the section on process, based on the last few sessions, we note that there is no consensus on adopting an international instrument. This was reflected in the Co-Chairs' oral summary.
- As such, to give due respect to the process and the need to find consensus, we do not think that the OEWG discussions are at a mature enough stage to recommend to the GA the consideration of adopting an international instrument.
- Consequently, it naturally follows that discussions are too premature a stage to establish a preparatory committee for a high level UN conference.