

First substantive session of the Ad hoc open-ended working group, established by General Assembly resolution 72/277, “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”.

Frequently Asked Questions

The substantive session 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” will be held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi from 14-18 January 2019.

This document, provides information answering the following questions:

1. What is the Ad hoc open-ended working group (“Working Group”), established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018?
2. How can I participate in the Working Group?
3. Is funding available to attend this event?

I. What is the Ad hoc open-ended working group (“Working Group”), established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018?

By General Assembly resolution 72/277 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session in 2018 a technical and evidence-based report that identifies and assesses possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation. The report is publicly available in all UN languages at the following website:

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

The General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group, under the auspices of the General Assembly, to consider the report and discuss 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 President of the General Assembly has appointed Amal Mudallali, Permanent Representative of Lebanon and Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal as Co-Chairs of the working group. Both Permanent Representatives are based in New York.

The organizational session of the working group was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York between the 5th to the 7th of September 2018 where the working group decided that the first substantive session would be held in Nairobi between the 14th to the 18th of January 2019. It also decided that unless otherwise decided by the working group, the second session would be of three to five days’ duration beginning on 18 March 2019 which is just after the United Nations Environment Assembly and that the third session would be of three to five days’ duration beginning on 20 May 2019.

Further details are available on the website: <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/conference/towards-global-pact-environment>

II How can I participate in the Working Group?

The General Assembly decided by resolution 72/277 that attendance as observers at the sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be open to relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, as well as to those that were accredited to relevant conferences and summits on the understanding that participation means attending formal meetings, unless otherwise decided by the working group in specific situations, receiving copies of the official documents, making available their materials to delegates and addressing the meetings, through a limited number of their representatives, as appropriate.

In referring to relevant conferences and summits the General Assembly made reference to the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the following relevant conferences and summits: the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

Pre-registration for the organizational session of the Working Group is required for eligible representatives of NGOs as identified in resolution 72/277 belonging to the following categories:

- Non-governmental organizations, in consultative status with ECOSOC according to resolution 1996/31
- The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development,
- The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and
- The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

Procedure for registration is as follows:

1. Create an Indico account at <https://reg.unog.ch/>
Please see the quick guide for instructions on how to create your account in Indico [here](#).
DESA recently hosted a webinar on INDICO. The recording can be viewed [here](#).
The PDF of the slide presentation can be found [here](#).
Indico FAQs are [here](#).
2. Register at <https://reg.unog.ch/event/27791/> by 7 January 2019.

III. How can I get funding to attend the Organizational session of the Ad hoc open-ended working group?

There is currently no funding available for NGO participation at the substantive sessions.
