

**Response to questions 1 & 2 of the interactive dialogue
2nd session *ad hoc* working group on the GPE**

Esteemed co-chairs and delegates,

I am Ana Barreira and I represent the International Institute for Law and the Environment (IIDMA) and the Common Home of Humanity.

Firstly, I thank the co-chairs for having prepared these questions to lead the interactive dialogue in which we would like to see a major interaction between the representatives of states and civil society.

The focus of the first posed question is principles of international environmental law (IEL). Before responding to this question, I would like to remind that IEL is the societal response to the environmental challenges and emergencies we face today. Last week the GEO-6 report launched during UNEA 4 showed we are at a crossroad. IEL is the source of many national environmental legal orders and plays a fundamental role to face those challenges and emergencies. For this reason, its implementation is paramount to deliver and achieve the objectives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Principles are a fundamental pillar in the construction of this area of Law and are the base of many MEAs and are included in many non-binding documents. For example, in 1992 even though no scientific certainty existed as it is today on the anthropogenic origin of climate change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted under one of the fundamental principles of international environmental law: the principle of precaution.

Due to the dissemination of principles of international environmental law in different hard and soft law, we consider that the main and only solution is integrating them in a Global Pact for the Environment or any similar document, thus consolidating them in a document as proposed by the representative of Uruguay. At the same time, we consider that together with the existing principles it is necessary as a methodological proposal to analyse and consider other principles according to the XXIth century knowledge as as the principle of the integrity and unity of the functioning of the Earth System which is a science-based principle.

On the second posed question, it is necessary to strengthen the existing governance avoiding duplication of tasks and work establishing coordination and interaction mechanisms. However, these mechanisms should not only be established among MEAs within the same cluster but among different sector MEAs taking into consideration the integrity and unity of the Earth System. Other gaps in governance are found in the functioning of compliance mechanisms but this is under the domain of the third question which will be dealt with in tomorrow's agenda.