**Organizational session of the** **Ad hoc open-ended working group, established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

The organizational session of the Ad hoc open-ended working group, established by General Assembly resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 will be held at UNHQ in New York from 5 to 7 September 2018 to examine matters related to the organization of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including the duration and number of its substantive sessions.

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?
4. **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 General Assembly also 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 General Assembly also decided that the ad hoc open-ended working group would hold an organizational session, for three working days, by the end of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, in New York, in order to examine matters related to the organization of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including the duration and number of its substantive sessions.

The General Assembly also decided that the substantive sessions would be held in Nairobi.

The Co-Chairs, after consultations with Member States have decided that the organizational session will be held at United Nations Headquarters between **5-7 September 2018**.

**II How can I participate in the Working Group?**

The General Assembly decided 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](http://csonet.org/content/documents/Indico_Quick_Guide_for_NGO_Participants.pdf).

DESA recently hosted a webinar on INDICO. The recording can be viewed [here](https://youtu.be/33Do2LpNRj4).   
The PDF of the slide presentation can be found [here](http://csonet.org/content/documents/Indico-Webinar-NGO-FocalPoints-15December.pdf).

Indico FAQs are [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gVk3-Ur4kGRWBLZiL-lYR0x_UMO9fJ0X/view?usp=sharing).

Please see the guide on how to designate Conference Focal Points [here](http://bit.ly/indico-cfps-getting-started).

1. Register by filling in the form at <https://bit.ly/2AAErBT> by 28 August 2018.
   * 1. **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 organizational session.

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