

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) during the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Restoring and Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems for People and Planet: Partnerships to Jointly Deliver on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

27 May 2016, Conference Room 1

(13:15h – 14:45 h)

Background

1. Pursuant to the Decision 27/2, taken at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council¹, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will hold, for the first time, a multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) during the two-day high-level segment which will conclude the second session the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2).
2. The main theme of the MSD of UNEA-2 is *'Restoring and Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems for People and Planet: Partnerships to jointly deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda'* and the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving this.
3. As UNEA matures into a strong institution, the MSD is also expected to mature into a forum for innovative, transparent and collegial dialogue. The MSD aims to highlight key concepts; show and share examples of best practice and ask questions pertinent to the selected theme.
4. UNEP has considerable experience with partnerships. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, its universal mandate (equally relevant to developed and developing countries) and UNEA being a unique forum, UNEP is well-placed to play a central role in the SDG implementation process, ensuring that the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda is fully integrated. This will, however, require reassessing – and no doubt broadening – UNEP's traditional approach to working in partnership.
5. UNEP may become a lab, a catalyst, an angel investor, a validator of efforts largely undertaken beyond its institutional framework, a provider of connections and back-up services. UNEA could embrace a forum in which partnerships to achieve and sustain healthy ecosystems are created, modified, assessed and renewed. More importantly, it could be the forum in which the optimal role for UNEP in catalyzing, leveraging and encouraging these partnerships is discussed and reviewed.

Objectives of the Dialogue

6. The main objective of the multi-stakeholder dialogue is to provide an opportunity to Member States, Major Groups and other stakeholders to discuss how multi-stakeholder partnerships for restoring and sustaining health ecosystems can contribute to successfully deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 agenda and the role of UNEA in catalyzing such partnerships.

¹ Paragraph 5e, UNEP/GC.27/17

7. Ministers, Major Groups and other stakeholders will be invited to discuss and exchange their experiences and success stories regarding successful partnerships that complement actions that are taken at the governmental level.
8. The examples and success stories presented by participants will demonstrate the potential of partnerships for restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems, with the view of identifying a leading role of UNEP and UNEA.

Guiding questions

9. The dialogue will be guided by the following preliminary questions for discussion:
 - What are key ingredients for forging successful multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure and sustain healthy ecosystems?
 - How can ecosystems related partnerships contribute to and maximize the impact on human health and the implementation of the SDGs?
 - How can UNEA contribute to promoting effective and accountable multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve and sustain healthy ecosystems in the context of the 2030 agenda?

Invited discussants, format and outcome of the dialogue

10. Following a thorough consultation process among relevant stakeholders, a diverse group of stakeholders has been invited to engage with the dialogue.
11. The MSD will be co-moderated by Sharon Dyksma, Minister of the Environment of The Netherlands and representative of the European Union and Mr. Andrew Steer President, CEO of the World Resources Institute (WRI). They will call upon, as appropriate, during the course of the dialogue, head of delegations, heads of UN organizations and identified stakeholders to provide inputs on the theme.
12. The outcome of the dialogue will be a chairperson summary, reflecting the different views of participants on how in the context of UNEP and UNEA, partnerships could contribute to restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems thus delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. These outcomes will i.a. feed into the overall outcome of UNEA-2.

Annex: Programme

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue during the High Level Segment of UNEA 2

Restoring and Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems for People and Planet: Partnerships to Jointly Deliver on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

Friday, 27 May 2016, 13.15h – 14.45h

Draft Programme as May 13, 2016

Time	Activity
13.15	Opening of the Dialogue by the UNEA President
13.20	Dialogue <i>Introduction to the theme, by Sharon Dyksma, Minister of the Environment of The Netherlands and representative of the European Union</i> <i>Introduction to the format of the dialogue, by Andrew Steer, President and CEO, World Resources Institute</i> <i>*Following the introduction, the Co-Chairs will moderate interventions by Ministers and invited stakeholders. Time allowing, the audience will get the opportunity to comment and to ask questions*</i>
14.40	Summary by co-chairmen
