

MESSAGE FROM BAN KI-MOON UN SECRETARY-GENERAL



The final months of 2015 saw two inspiring advances for humankind and victories for multilateralism: in September, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in December, the Paris Agreement on climate change.

These new agendas put forth a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world. World leaders have promised to pursue shared prosperity, peace and partnership, and they have recognized the fundamental importance of protecting the planet in order to meet our ambitions.

As the voice of the environment for the United Nations system, UNEP has been a key player in bringing us to this realization. For more than four decades, UNEP has uncovered and highlighted the science on how a healthy, functioning environment is central to a sustainable future. It has offered many solutions to the challenges we face, from mitigating and adapting to climate change to transforming unsustainable consumption and production practices.

Crucially, UNEP has worked closely with other UN bodies, governments at all levels, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to drive the process of change. Such global collaboration will be essential as we strive to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and bring the Paris Agreement to life. Action is needed from everyone, everywhere; we must look beyond national boundaries and short-term interests and act in solidarity for the long-term.

This Annual Report presents examples of the partnerships and global outlooks that will be critical to our future success. As we begin to implement both agendas, the world can continue to count on UNEP to help us secure lives of dignity for all on a healthy planet.