

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Briefing by the Secretariat
Thursday 12 October 2017
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

**Note by the Secretariat on the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly “People and
Pollution”**

The Secretariat is pleased to present a concept note on the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly “People and Pollution”, which will take place on Tuesday 5 December 2017. It will support discussion under Agenda item 2: Organizational modalities of the 2017 UN Environment Assembly, at the Briefing by the Secretariat, to be held on 12 October 2017.

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Concept Note
(Version October 3, 2017)

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the 2017 UN Environment Assembly “People and Pollution”

December 5, Nairobi, Kenya

Introduction

The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the 2017 session of the UN Environment Assembly will provide an opportunity to present how pollution affects people and what initiatives they have taken to beat pollution. Furthermore, the interactive Dialogue will build upon the four Leadership Dialogues that will have been held earlier in the day between governments and public sector and will incorporate the voice of Major Groups and Stakeholders.

The Dialogue will take place on the evening of the second day of the Assembly, Tuesday, 5 December, at 19h (tbc).

Theme

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will converse around the topic of **“People and Pollution”**. Building on the campaign for pledges to beat pollution and the discussions held during the Assembly and preceding Leadership Dialogues, it will focus on root causes for different aspects of pollution, including making the connections to poverty, rule of law, human rights etc.

Panelists will present how pollution affects their lives and what solutions have been found that might be applied in other situations and regions. Through this discussion, decision makers will get an insight into how pollution affects people on the ground and the potential of citizen’s action to address the pollution issue.

In telling their stories, participants will help to bring the pollution theme back to the reality daily life and celebrate lifestyle champions.

Participants

Participants include:

- **4-6 Individuals¹** who present their story (3 – 5 minutes each) how pollution affects their life and how they have successfully beaten pollution. These individuals will be selected among:
 - Young champions of the earth
 - Major Groups and Stakeholders, including representatives from grassroots level, representing people and communities directly affected by pollution
 - Citizens and Civil Society Organizations that have committed through the clean planet pledge to combat pollution. Up to 4 individuals will be specially invited for that to the Assembly.

¹ To be identified by October 30, 2017.

- Business Representatives
- **Governmental discussants** preferably from ministerial level
- **Discussants from Major Groups and Stakeholders** representing the nine Major Groups, Inter-governmental organizations, Multilateral Agreements etc.

The dialogue will be facilitated by Felix Dodds².

Setting

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will be designed in a way that allows a maximum of interaction among governmental and non-governmental participants in a non-formal environment giving the opportunity to speak openly and to raise challenges. The audience will be allowed to contribute to the discussions.

It will have the following set-up:

19.00 – 19.05	Introduction by Facilitator on the theme and participants
19.05 – 19.45	Section 1: “How does Pollution Affect Us?”: Up to three short interventions on the impact of pollution, followed by a facilitated dialogue among participants. Interventions will be by individual directly affected by pollution.
19.45 – 20.20	Section 2: “How can we address the problem of pollution?”: Up to three short interventions on successful solutions to address pollution, followed by a facilitated dialogue participants
20.20 – 20.30h	Open dialogue with the audience, conclusions

Individual presenters will be required not only to present their stories but to end their input with concrete suggestions and questions for decision makers. These should relate to root causes of pollution and should make the link between pollution and related issues. Presentations may be supported with short videos.

The discussion among discussant will be followed by an open invitation to the audience to join the dialogue.

A short report on the dialogue will be prepared by the facilitator and presented to the Assembly.

² Felix Dodds is an International Ambassador for the City of Bonn. He is a senior fellow of the Global Research Institute, a Senior Affiliate of the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina and an associate fellow at the Tellus Institute in Boston. He was co-director of the Nexus 2014: Water, Energy, Food and Climate Conference and is the co-director of the 2018 conference. He advises a number of organisations working on the post 2015 development goals. He is a writer and was for twenty years Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future from 1992 to 2012.