

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday 11 March 2021
3:00 p.m. –6:00 p.m. (GMT+3)
Online Meeting

Agenda Item 2: Presentation of the UNEP’s Synthesis Report, “Making Peace with Nature”.

This document serves as a background note for consideration of Agenda Item 2: Presentation of the UNEP’s Synthesis Report, “Making Peace with Nature”.

It provides a short briefing for the Synthesis Report “Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies”, which was released on 18 February 2021 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Executive Director of UNEP Inger Andersen.

Member States are invited to raise questions they may have and provide feedback.

Synthesis Report, “Making Peace with Nature”

The first UNEP synthesis report, “Making Peace with Nature” was launched on Thursday 18 February 2021, in advance of UNEA 5.1 with a joint press conference between the UN Secretary General, António Guterres and UNEP’s Executive Director Inger Andersen. The report makes it clear that there is a triple emergency unfolding and that these three issues are interlinked and need to be dealt with together. *“These are not just environmental issues, they are economic, development, security, social, moral and ethical issues.”* - Sir Robert Watson, Report Lead.

The report’s synthesis of the latest global environmental assessments, including: IPCC, IPBES, GEO, GSDR, IRP, GCO¹ and more, presenting an authoritative scientific blueprint on how to “make peace with nature”. The blueprint calls for ambitious and coordinated action by governments, businesses and people around the world to prevent and reverse the worst impacts of environmental decline by rapidly transforming key systems including energy, water and food so that our use of the land and oceans becomes sustainable. It also stresses the need for transforming social and economic systems, improving our relationship with nature, understanding its value and putting that value at the heart of our decision making.

The synthesis also communicates how climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution can be tackled jointly within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report serves to translate the current state of scientific knowledge into crisp, clear and digestible facts-based messages that the world can relate to and follow up on. It first provides an Earth diagnosis of current and projected human-induced environmental change, by putting facts and interlinkages in perspective, including by using smart infographics. In building on this diagnosis, the report identifies the shifts needed to close gaps between current actions and those needed to achieve sustainable development.

The Making Peace with Nature report was a yearlong effort led by Ivar Baste and Bob Watson, which brought together over 50 leading experts, from 27 countries representing all UN regions with 20 women and 33 men, to synthesize the latest scientific findings from recent global environmental assessments. The process was led by an esteemed Scientific Advisory Group that represented the voice of science with many leading experts of the latest global environmental assessments, and the guidance of UNEP’s Executive Director, Inger Andersen. The production of the report was managed and coordinated by UNEP’s Science Division.

The report was widely covered in the international media. As of 25 February 2021, a total of 1,167 articles were published across 74 countries and in 22 languages. The report has been downloaded over 25,000 times from UNEP’s website alone (as of 25 February 2021).

The Making Peace with Nature report, as well as all related documents, such as the executive summary in all UN languages, key messages and various communication products can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature>

¹ IPCC = Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPBES = Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, GEO = Global Environmental Outlook, GSDR = Global Sustainable Development Report, IRP = International Resources Panel, GCO = Global Chemicals Outlook and the report synthesized about 25 major assessments in addition to high-impact research articles when relevant.