

# ADVISORY BOARD: TERMS OF REFERENCE

## OBJECTIVES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

On 1 March 2019, under [Resolution 73/284](#), the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2021–2030 as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN Decade) with the primary aim to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.

The UN Decade is co-led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in close collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and entities of the United Nations system together with a wide range of global, national, and local partners.

As per the [strategy](#) of the UN Decade, the Advisory Board is the main external body of the UN Decade's governance structure. The Board's main objective is to offer relevant perspectives and schools of thought in response to the challenges and barriers for implementing the UN Decade.



The Board will provide guidance to the UN Decade's lead agencies, including to the UNEP/FAO Strategy Group and the UN Decade Task Forces, and to all [UN Decade partners](#). The Advisory Board is invited to make recommendations on any issue that the co-lead agencies or the Board identify as priorities for implementing and amplifying the UN Decade. The Board can also request the five UN Decade Task Forces (as of March 2021: Best Practices; Finance; Monitoring; Science; and Youth) to explore specific topics in detail and report back to the Advisory Board.

The Board should focus on topics of greatest strategic importance for the success of the UN Decade, drawing inter alia on the list of topics in the UN's Decade strategy. The outputs of the Board should aim to inspire and amplify the UN Decade's goals and enable the co-lead agencies and UN Decade partners to be more effective in the implementation of the UN Decade. The Board members are also encouraged to promote the UN Decade through their respective organizations and networks, and they can represent the UN Decade at key events.

## ACTIVITIES

The Board is expected to meet (virtually, or as a combination of in-person and virtual meeting) once per year, or more frequently if the Board so decides. The Advisory Board and its members can achieve their objectives through a variety of means, including:

- Provide recommendations for the implementation of the UN Decade
- Help amplify the UN Decade and support/lead activities
- Raise awareness and drive global engagement on restoration through respective communities/area of expertise
- Request the UN Decade Task Forces to elaborate recommendations
- Represent the UN Decade at events or in communication streams
- Advise Task Forces and the core team or comment of key publications and outputs in the context of the UN Decade



## OPERATION AND COORDINATION OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

The operation of the Advisory Board is supported by the core team of the UN Decade (UNEP and FAO), with day-to-day support provided by the UN Decade Partnership Coordinator and under the overall guidance of the UN Decade Coordinator. The core team convenes and organizes the Board meetings. The UN Decade Partnership Coordinator will be the focal point for the operation of the Board and provide the Chair with support for the fulfillment of the Chair's functions.

### ADVISORY BOARD COMPOSITION

#### Membership and appointments

Board members serve in a personal capacity, by invitation through the UN Decade Coordinator, on behalf of UNEP and FAO. The Board will include representatives from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society, youth, farmers, women's groups, restoration experts, media and culture, and private sector<sup>1</sup>. Board members are distinguished individuals with proven expertise, a large network, and an impact record on ecosystem restoration. They stand out through a significant public profile with significant outreach and thought leadership driven by highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior for people and planet.

The Board is limited to a maximum of 30 members and board memberships of two years, subject to renewal approved by FAO and UNEP. The board shall be diverse and well-balanced, including with regards to gender and geographical representation. Members should complement the existing Task Forces, and as they provide advice to all UN Decade partners, no representatives from partner organizations should serve on the Board. The Board should generally also not include Government representatives, as it should complement the guidance that Governments provide to UNEP and FAO through regular UN structures, and through the group of informal 'Friends' of the UN Decade.

Board members participate and fulfill their role as volunteer experts without financial remuneration. Travel to in-person meetings will be covered by UNEP and FAO, if required.

Appointments will exclusively be made by invitations from the co-leading agencies FAO and UNEP based on recommendations by the Strategy Group. Board members can make recommendations for new candidates, once their own terms expires.

The Chair and members have the possibility of resigning at any time from their position. When a resignation takes place, UNEP and FAO can take the decision to replace the vacant position.

Board members are expected to provide a short bio and recent photo which will be displayed on the UN Decade website.

#### Chair

The leading agencies (UNEP and FAO) lead the organization of the Advisory Board. The Board will appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for the period of one year, subject to renewal.

In the absence of the appointed Chair (or Vice-Chair) in a meeting, the Board members will appoint a Chair for the duration of the meeting.

#### Quorum

Quorum is reached when at least one third of the Board and a representative of FAO and UNEP are present. With their prior approval, meetings of the Board can be held without the Chair or Vice-Chair.

#### Frequency of Meetings

The Board is to decide the frequency of the meeting. However, it is encouraged that it meets at least once

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<sup>1</sup> Representatives from official UN Decade partner entities are not going to be represented on the Board as they are closely involved through the partnership structure, partnership calls and meetings, and Task Forces.



per annum, or as required by the Chair. Meetings should be held virtually, or as a combination of in-person and virtual meetings. If in-person meetings are held, travel funds are available for Board Members upon request (subject to available funds). To save on travel costs and emissions, in-person or hybrid meetings would be held back-to-back with key international events, such as Rio Convention COPs.

#### **Notice of Meeting**

Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time, and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed and supporting papers will be shared with each member of the Board and any other person required to attend, no later than twenty working days before the date of the meeting.

#### **Additional experts**

Board members can request additional experts to participate in topic-specific meetings to offer more specific input and expertise as needed. This is subject to approval by the Chair and by UNEP and FAO.

#### **Changes to these Terms of Reference**

These Terms of Reference can be changed by the UN Decade Strategy Group.

#### **Reports**

The core UN Decade team will support the Board in its tasks and will report on decision items promptly after the meeting.