

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and  
the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
8 December 2021  
16:00 – 19:00 (GMT+3)  
Online meeting

## **Agenda Item 2: Consideration of the agenda, structure format, modalities and side events for UNEA 5.2**

This note, entitled "Recommended list of official side events for UNEA-5.2 and the special session on UNEP@50", serves as a background document for consideration under agenda item 2 - Consideration of the agenda, structure format, modalities and side events for UNEA 5.2.

The note includes a recommended list of official side events for the resumed session of UNEA-5.2 and the special session on UNEP@50.

Following an open call issued in August 2021 to UN Member States, UN entities, including the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and major groups and stakeholders accredited to the UN Environment Programme, a total of **173 side event applications** were received by the secretariat through a dedicated online application portal by the deadline of 31 October 2021. This record number of applications demonstrates a very high interest by all stakeholders from all parts of the world to contribute to these milestone events.

Following the submission of applications, the secretariat has reviewed and assessed the contributions applying a thorough selection process that has aimed to identify lead organizers for a limited number of high-profile side events. This process resulted in the shortlisting of a total of **18 official side events for UNEA-5, and 3 official side events for UNEP@50**. The recommended side events have been selected with a view to ensure a broad geographical representation of stakeholders, a high potential to add value to the UNEA sessions, as well a high-level resonance in relation to the overall theme for UNEA-5 – "*Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*". More specifically, the following criteria have been applied in the selection process:

1. **Thematic consideration:** The theme of the side event should relate to the theme of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, also taking into account the guidance outlined in the [background note underlying the choice of the theme](#) by the UNEA Bureau in December 2019; or focus on the special session on UNEP@50.
2. **Compelling speakers and audience engagement:** The side event should, as far as possible, ensure an interactive and engaging dialogue with panel members and/or the audience with a moderator that has a background in hosting such events to ensure a compelling event within the allocated time.
3. **Representation:** The design and structure of the side event should facilitate broad stakeholder participation and should, where relevant, include representatives from the civil society, the private sector and the scientific community, and the choice of lead speakers / contributors / panelists to the event lists should to the extent possible be geographically, generationally and gender balanced and should generally not exceed six people.

4. **Outreach and communications:** Priority has been given to side events that are co-sponsored by two or more entities/ partners, that have a dynamic and strong communications / media component built into the event that serves to raise the profile of the issue and ergo UNEA 5.2.

The shortlisting was carried out in two phases, whereby a longlist was created based on the above-mentioned established criteria. In a second phase, the longlist was assessed by senior management representatives from across the UNEP secretariat, to select the best applications to arrive at the final shortlist. The proposed official side events for special session on UNEP@50 was subject to a separate process led by the UNEP@50 coordination team.

In addition to the shortlist, about 60 additional proposals from the longlist were identified as potential contributors to the selected side events, within 4 thematic clusters that address the same or similar topics. On this basis, the organizers of the selected side events will – with the support of the secretariat – be invited to reach out to the other applicants in each cluster to explore possible cooperation to enhance the quality and ownership of the final side event, with potentially higher impacts. Such an approach can lead to broader engagement among key stakeholders and may spur new forms of cooperation across Member States and organizations that go beyond the organization of a single event.

The approach may require additional efforts of outreach and coordination among different stakeholders, which UNEP will help facilitate. UNEP will also provide guidance and support to secure an adequate stakeholder, gender and generational balance for the side events panels.

Following review and possible further guidance provided by the UNEA and CPR Bureau at its meeting on 8 December, the successful applicants will be informed by the secretariat in December.

With regard to the specific distribution of events in time and space, the secretariat will need more time to prepare a fully-fledged program. The programming will take into account the guidance provided in the agreed [Outcome of the Process for review by the CPR](#). Thus, the secretariat will aim for “*an optimal balance between political negotiations, the UNEA high-level segment, and official and non-official UNEA events, to ensure political ownership and to enable, as far as possible, all Member States to participate in the negotiations on UNEA resolutions, by rationalizing the number of side events and other events, and avoiding overlaps in the scheduling and structure of UNEA sessions.*” This means that no official side events will take place at the same time as formal meetings, and that only a limited number of side events will be organized in parallel.

The secretariat is also exploring options for a limited number of the high profile events to take place in a hybrid format from the UN conference rooms, and/or a possible “digital tent” that can host some or all of the events in one online space. Some events may also be pre-recorded / produced for transmission in advance. Furthermore, a “green room” may be set up which will facilitate possible high-level participation by virtual means directly from the UN compound during UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50.

Finally, the secretariat will seek to ensure that the official UNEA side events reach as large an audience as possible, through effective promotion and communication on UNEP’s main website and social media platforms, and by reaching out to UNEP partners, goodwill ambassadors, and others.

Members of the two Bureaux are invited to endorse the proposed selection of official side events for the resumed session of UNEA-5 and the special session on UNEP@50, in accordance with established practices for previous UNEA sessions, and provide possible additional guidance for the organization of the side events.

**Recommended list of official side events for UNEA-5.2 and the special session on UNEP@50**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Organizers/contributors</b>
#1 Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution - Steps towards a global agreement.	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Organizer: Rwanda and Germany</b></p> <p><b>Title: Steps of a participatory approach towards a new global agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution</b></p> <p><b>Proposal no 12</b></p>
	<p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Abidjan Convention Countries for a global treaty against plastic pollution <u>Organizer:</u> Abidjan Convention <u>Proposal 3</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Multi-Stakeholder Action Agenda on Ocean Plastic Pollution <u>Organizer:</u> United States <u>Proposal 59</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> The critical role a UN plastics treaty can play in achieving the SDGs: Stakeholder perspectives on seizing the opportunity to start intergovernmental negotiations <u>Organizer:</u> WWF + Republic of Vietman, Ellen Macurther (+ other Member States TBC) <u>Proposal 92</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Tackling plastic pollution through a multilateral environmental agreement: The contributions of the Basel Convention <u>Organizer:</u> Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions <u>Proposal 37</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Plastic pollution from source to sea: Empowering researchers and non-academic partners in the Global South to face a planetary threat. <u>Organizer:</u> Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) <u>Proposal 157</u></p>
#2 Sustainable Blue Economy and healthy oceans	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title: Stepping up to strengthen ocean governance under SDG14 - announcement on new members to Global Ocean Alliance/High Ambition Coalition.</b></p> <p><b>Organizer: UK Government</b></p> <p><b>Proposal 45</b></p>
	<p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Delivering co-benefits for a blue recovery and a healthy ocean through regional cooperation and action. <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP <u>Proposal 143</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Creation of a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Abidjan Convention area.</p>

	<p><u>Organizer:</u> Abidjan Convention/UN Environment Programme. <u>Proposal 4</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Climate-driven multi-stressors: impacts on ocean health and potential solutions. <u>Organizer:</u> IUCN <u>Proposal 139</u></p>
#3 Towards Zero Pollution	<p><b><u>Lead organizer:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Title:</u></b> A 'zero pollution ambition' to protect nature and people <b><u>Organizer:</u></b> European Commission <b><u>Proposal 49</u></b></p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Potential contributors:</u></b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> The Nitrogen Promise: Youth Nitro Visioning to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals – Colombo Declaration <u>Organizers:</u> Sri Lanka, UNEP, Parley <u>Proposal 165</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> The Invisible Wave: Getting to zero chemical pollution in the ocean. <u>Organizer:</u> The Economist Group + Nippon Foundation <u>Proposal 16</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Evidence-based approach to close the loop of plastic waste value chain in ASEAN countries <u>Organizer:</u> Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) <u>Proposal 54</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Greening Customs for People, Planet and Prosperity: The Case of Chemicals and Waste Management <u>Organizer:</u> UN Environment Programme <u>Proposal 142</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> The global e-waste challenge and the Basel Convention <u>Organizer:</u> Ghana and Switzerland <u>Proposal 152</u></p>
#4 Towards a circular economy	<p><b><u>Lead organizer:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Title:</u></b> Reuse Portal Launch – a global initiative to promote reuse solutions via a joint digital portal that engages innovators, governments, consumer companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders interested in unlocking reuse models at scale. <b><u>Organizer:</u></b> World Economic Forum and UNEP <b><u>Proposal 69</u></b></p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Potential contributors:</u></b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Acting to promote sustainable waste management and to improve the health of our land, ocean and freshwater systems <u>Organizer:</u> IUCN <u>Proposal 144</u></p>

	<p><u>Title:</u> The use of plastic waste material vs. the use of local natural resources: What is the silver bullet for affordable, sustainable building and living around the globe? <u>Organizer:</u> International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3) <u>Proposal 10</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Towards a circular economy for the sustainable management of plastic waste on beach and ocean ecosystems <u>Organizer:</u> The Mohammed VI Foundation For Environmental Protection <u>Proposal 43</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> How to build a circular economy for plastic waste <u>Organizer:</u> Alliance to End Plastic Waste <u>Proposal 145</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> The Circular Economy: mining's role in a greener future <u>Organizer:</u> International Council on Mining and Metals <u>Proposal 146</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Beating the Heat with Nature: Sustainable Urban Cooling for Healthy, Livable and Resilient Cities <u>Organizer:</u> WWF Sweden <u>Proposal 83</u></p>
#5 sustainable agriculture	<p><b><u>Lead organizer:</u></b> <b><u>Organizer:</u> Denmark and country partners to the Amsterdam Partnership Declaration</b> <b><u>Title:</u> We are all Atlas: Sharing best practices for collaboration on sustainable deforestation-free agricultural commodity production and consumption.</b> <b><u>Proposal 164</u></b></p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Potential contributors:</u></b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Betting on youth and agroecology for planetary survival: The UNEP we need. <u>Organizer:</u> Society for International Development <u>Proposal 159</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Nature-Based Business Models: Opportunities &amp; Challenges for the Food &amp; Beverage Sector <u>Organizer:</u> World Environment Center <u>Proposal 126</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Climate Change, Adaptation and Global Food Security <u>Organizer:</u> African Youth International Development Foundation <u>Proposal 33</u></p>
#6 The biodiversity post 2020 Framework	<p><b><u>Lead organizer:</u></b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Delivering the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Ensuring Success at COP 15 and Facilitating Early Implementation <u>Organizer:</u> CBD Secretariat <u>Proposal 150</u></p>

	<p><b>Potential contributors:</b>  <u>Title:</u> Closing the Biodiversity Funding Gap: How far have we come?  <u>Organizer:</u> UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  <u>Proposal 21</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Decoupling Consumption from Biodiversity Loss - Information, Awareness and Action  <u>Organizer:</u> One Planet Network  <u>Proposal 82</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> We are part of the Solution - A United Nations system commitment for catalysing collective action for nature  <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP-WCMC  <u>Proposal 120</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> South-South Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation in Support of the Post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework  <u>Organizer:</u> African Wildlife Foundation  <u>Proposal 77</u></p>
#7 Sustainable Consumption and Production	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b>  <b><u>Title:</u> The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production: a turning point in UNEP's journey for sustainable development</b>  <b><u>Organizer:</u> UNEP / 10YFP One Planet Network Secretariat)</b>  <b><u>Proposal 121</u></b></p> <p><b>Potential contributors:</b>  <u>Title:</u> If not us, then who? How sport, gaming, scouts and universities are rolling up their sleeves for nature  <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP  <u>Proposal 106</u></p>
#8 Nature and the SDGs	<p><b><u>Lead organizer:</u></b>  <b><u>Title:</u> Mapping Nature for the Sustainable Development Goals</b>  <b><u>Organizers:</u> Costa Rica; Uganda, CBD, UN Environment Programme and UNDP</b>  <b><u>Proposal 100</u></b></p> <p><b>Potential contributors:</b>  <u>Title:</u> Achieving the SDGs through innovative &amp; Integrated approaches: innovative integrated partnerships for a more equitable, nature-positive and carbon neutral world  <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP  <u>Proposal 107</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> A Self-Financing, Sustainable Economy for the Achievement of the SDG's</p>

	<p><u>Organizer:</u> Institute for Planetary Synthesis (Brazil) <u>Proposal 11</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Enabling a Sustainable and Socially Responsible Digital Transformation: using ocean and climate data and visualization tools to better understand the needs of vulnerable and underserved communities and deliver on the SDGs. <u>Organizer:</u> United States <u>Proposal 60</u></p>
#9 Faith for Nature	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b></p> <p><b><u>Title:</u> Voices of hope and faith - Sharing visions living in harmony with nature</b> <b><u>Organizer:</u> The Lutheran World Federation</b> <b><u>Proposal 22</u></b></p>
	<p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Ministerial Dialogue on Al-Mizan: Covenant for the Earth a blueprint to strengthen Islamic action for nature <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP <u>Proposal 2</u></p>
#10 Green recovery after COVID	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b></p> <p><b><u>Title:</u> Green Recoveries for Accelerating Economic Transformation</b> <b><u>Organizer:</u> PAGE (UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy)</b> <b><u>Proposal 108</u></b></p>
	<p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> From flu to fortune: Why innovative investments in nature will lead to a sustainable post-Covid future <u>Organizer:</u> IUCN <u>Proposal 58</u></p>
	<p><u>Title:</u> The impact of COVID on the green recovery in Pacific Island states <u>Organizer:</u> Local2030 Islands Network <u>Proposal 71</u></p>
	<p><u>Title:</u> Healthy planet, healthy people – launch of UNEPs One Health initiative <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP <u>Proposal 89</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> How our food systems need to change post COVID-19 <u>Organizer:</u> ProVeg International <u>Proposal 151</u></p>
#11 Digital Environmental Sustainability	<p><b><u>Title:</u> Accelerating Action towards A Digital Planet for Sustainability</b> <b><u>Organizer:</u> Kenya, Germany, UNDP, UNDP and International Science Council</b> <b><u>Proposal 39</u></b></p>

<p>#12 Circularity and Nature</p>	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> <b>Second High-level Meeting of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) - circular economy to protect against nature loss/post-2020.</b>  <b>Organizer:</b> Japan  <b>Proposal 90</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Innovations for a Nature Positive Economy: Regeneration, Recirculation, Resilience  <u>Organizer:</u> Consumers International  <u>Proposal 9</u></p>
<p>#13 Circular economy in Africa</p>	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> <b>Accelerating a Just Transition to a Circular Economy in Africa</b>  <b>Organizer:</b> UNEP, African Union, AMCEN, African Circular Economy Alliance  <b>Proposal 158</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Using the clothes we love to protect the nature we need  <u>Organizer:</u> South Africa  <u>Proposal 141</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> "Applying science and building capacity in the regions for high-impact strategies on sustainable consumption and production"  <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP  <u>Proposal 93</u></p>
<p>#14 Implementati on of the Decade of Ecosystems Restoration</p>	<p><b>Lead organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> <b>The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Raising ambitions for nature</b>  <b>Organizer:</b> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  <b>Proposal 46</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> International Year of Rangelands - innovation in sustainable rangeland management  <u>Organizer:</u> International Livestock Research Institute  <u>Proposal 101</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Ecosystem restoration via EbA approach to build back better  <u>Organizer:</u> India Water Foundation  <u>Proposal 78</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Pay attention - neglected ecosystems and livelihoods can help tackle the world's climate, nature and pollution crises with a focus on mountains, peatlands and drylands.</p>



	<p><u>Organizer:</u> UNEP Mountain Partnership, Global Peatlands Initiative, Rangelands Initiative of the International Land Coalition <u>Proposal 61</u></p>
<p>#15 Nature-based solutions and climate change adaptation at regional level</p>	<p><b>Proposed Organizer:</b></p> <p><b><u>Title:</u> Nature Based Solutions in the Americas</b> <b><u>Organizer:</u> Chile, Mexico, Canada, and Costa Rica</b> <b><u>Proposal 30</u></b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Scaling up and financing Nature-based Solutions to increase action on climate adaptation <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP and IUCN <u>Proposal 112</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Whose Nature? Whose Solutions? Interrogating Nature-Based Solutions from the Ground <u>Organizer:</u> IBON International and Indigenous People’s Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation <u>Proposal 44</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast and Nile Delta Regions in Egypt Project (ECCADP) / Towards COP 27 <u>Organizer:</u> Egypt <u>Proposal 53</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Scaling up investments in nature-based solutions by several orders of magnitude <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP <u>Proposal 129</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Nature-based solutions for sustainable and resilient infrastructure and a green recovery <u>Organizer:</u> UNEP <u>Proposal 125</u></p>
<p>#16 Nature conservation and Human Rights</p>	<p><b>Proposed Organizer:</b></p> <p><b><u>Title:</u> Reimagining conservation: integrating human rights in the development and implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework</b> <b><u>Organizer:</u> Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.</b> <b><u>Proposal 138</u></b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Potential contributors:</b></p> <p><u>Title:</u> The Integration of Environment and Human Rights – A Triumph for Sustainable Development <u>Organizer:</u> Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL); Johns Hopkins University/SAIS</p>

	<p><u>Proposal 91</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Putting children’s environmental rights at the heart of the sustainable development agenda: An intergenerational dialogue. <u>Organizer:</u> Children's Environmental Rights Initiative</p> <p><u>Proposal 96</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Nature-based solutions: exploring opportunities, securing rights, and understanding risks <u>Organizer:</u> Forest Peoples Programme</p> <p><u>Proposal 153</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Solutions for peace and nature, looking at armed conflict and issues around natural resources and governance. <u>Organizer:</u> PAX and IUCN</p> <p><u>Proposal 173</u></p>
#17 Education for Nature	<p><b>Proposed Organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title: We are what we teach: How can education be re-wired for the future? With member states, UN, education institutions and student leaders, how should education change to deliver a sustainable future.</b> <b>Organizer: UNEP</b></p> <p><b>Proposal 97</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Potential contributor:</b> Title: Mobilizing Young People for a Greener World through Non-Formal Education Organization: World Organization of the Scout Movement. <u>Proposal 160</u></p>
#18 The impact of Air pollution on people and planet	<p><b>Proposed Organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title: Regional Responses to the Air Pollution Crisis</b> <b>Organizer: United States</b></p> <p><b>Proposal 7</b></p>

**UNEP@50 side events**

#1 regional contribution to environmental multilateralism	<p><b>Proposed Organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title: LAC Forum@40: The Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: reflecting and looking forward on the regional contribution to environmental multilateralism.</b> <b>Organizer: UNEP Office, LAC Forum of Ministers</b></p> <p><b>Proposal 20</b></p>
#2 Celebrating 35 years of Multilateral Environmental Agreements	<p><b>Proposed Organizer:</b></p> <p><b>Title: Celebrating 35 years of compliance mechanisms under MEAs</b> <b>Organizer: The Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Convention Secretariats</b></p> <p><b>Proposal 75</b></p>

	<p><b>Potential contributors:</b>  <u>Title:</u> From Policies to Action: Strengthening the Environmental Rule of Law  <u>Organization:</u> Environmental Law Institute  <u>Proposal 17</u></p> <p><u>Title:</u> Memorializing Maurice Strong and the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of UNEP  <u>P Organizer:</u> China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation <u>proposal 167</u></p> <p><u>Other Multilateral Environmental Agreement Secretariats</u></p>
#3 Toward Stockholm50	<p><b>Proposed Organizer:</b>  <u>Title:</u> <b>Transforming global value chains for a healthy planet and prosperity for all</b>  <u>Organizers:</u> Sweden, UNEP 10YFP, WEF  <u>Proposal 148</u></p>