

Special session to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50)

3-4 March 2022

Concept Note for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

(version 17 January 2022)

I. Introduction

The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will provide an opportunity for direct interaction of Major Groups and Stakeholders with Member State representatives, including at ministerial level.

The Dialogue will take place on March 4, 2022, between 3.00 and 4.30 pm.

II. Theme

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will facilitate an exchange of views on the overall UNEP@50 theme “Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and it will provide an opportunity for direct interaction between representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders and Member States, looking back at 50 years of UNEP but looking also at the expectations for the future, taking in particular into account the perspectives from Major Groups and Stakeholders.

III. Background report

The dialogue will be informed by the report “The UNEP We Want” that was prepared by the UNEP@50 Taskforce of Major Groups and Stakeholders and that presents their views and proposals on the future of UNEP.

The report will be made available end of January 2022.

IV. Participants in the dialogue

Participants to the dialogue include:

- 6 presenters from stakeholders, taking into account gender- and regional balance, who will give short statements, including
 - One of the co-authors of the “UNEP We Want” report
 - A Youth Representative
 - Mark Halle, IISD, tbc
 - A business and Industry Representative
 - A representative from UNEP’s Major Groups Facilitating Committee

who will present their views on UNEP’s achievements and failures during the last 50 years and their proposals i.a. on:

- how to make UNEP ready to play a leading role in implementation of the environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - the main lessons of 50 years of UNEP, its failures, and achievements
 - priority areas of work for UNEP in the next 10 years to address the triple (+) planetary crisis
 - how to ensure that UNEP future work translates into concrete environment action
 - alternatives to the current UNEP governance system that strengthen the organization and which lead to better engagement of stakeholders
- Governmental respondents preferably from ministerial level (modalities for engagement see below).
 - Members of the audience, representing the nine Major Groups, Inter-governmental Organizations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements etc.

The dialogue will be coordinated and managed by a skillful moderator experienced in running inter-active dialogues in an inter-governmental setting, who will work in close cooperation with UNEP.

V. Setting

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will be designed in a way that allows a maximum of interaction among participants in a non-formal setting giving the opportunity to speak openly and to raise key challenges. Simultaneous translation in all UN languages will be provided.

The audience will be given the opportunity to shape and guide the discussions.

It will have the following set-up

3pm – 3.05pm	Introduction by moderator of the theme and participants
3.05pm – 3.50pm	Section 1: Statements by presenters, followed by responses from Member States
3.50pm – 4.20pm	Section 2: Dialogue/Question and answers open to all participants, including those participating online
4.20pm – 4.30pm	Final statements from panelists

VI. Respondents

Member States will be approached prior to the event to indicate their interest and willingness to actively engage a high-level member of their delegation (ministerial level) in the dialogue by becoming Governmental Respondents. These respondents are expected to react to the issues raised by the stakeholder presenters. They will be the first invited by the moderator to respond to the statements of the presenters and they are expected to respond to one or more of the issues raised. **In order to promote a lively and engaging debate, all participants are encouraged to participate interactively in the dialogue and to avoid reading out pre-prepared statements.**

VII. Outcome

A short summary on the content and key conclusions of the dialogue will be prepared by the facilitator/moderator and made available for the closing session of the Assembly.