

Resumed fifth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2.)

28 February to 2 March 2022

## **Concept Note for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue**

(version 17 January 2022)

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### **I. Introduction**

The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the resumed 2nd session of the fifth UN Environment Assembly will provide an opportunity for an interactive dialogue of representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholder and Member States, including at ministerial level.

It will be informed by a background paper that will be distributed prior to the event. The Dialogue will take place on March 1, 2022, between 4.30 and 6 pm, in a hybrid format.

### **II. Theme**

The COVID 19 pandemic aggravated already existing multiple challenges related to unsustainable consumption and production patterns. It also resulted in the postponement of decisions important for the environment (including the postponement of many UN meetings and the substantial session of UNEA 5).

Environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution contributed the conditions that led to an increase in the type of animal-to-human zoonosis underlying the pandemic. They also contributed to pre-existing medical conditions, such as asthma that make persons more vulnerable to viral infections. Many consider the COVID-19 pandemic as a wakeup call to push us all to rethink our interactions with nature and wildlife.

While some may argue that the COVID-19 pandemic has been “good for the environment” — that nature is recovering while human activities cease and that targeted recovery efforts can contribute to a future — there is no certainty that the post COVID economic recovery will be “greener” and beneficial for the environment, in particular if it comes at the expense of a quicker economic recovery.

However, the response to the crisis presents a unique opportunity to support improved social protection measures, and a just transition to a sustainable, no-carbon economy founded on renewable energy,

environmentally sound technology, sustainable resource use, community empowerment and livelihoods of dignity.

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will provide the opportunity for member states representatives to engage in an open and interactive exchange with stakeholders about how to work together in building back greener in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, in the context of the theme of UNEA 5 - “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the SDGs”. The dialogue will consider lessons learned from the COVID pandemic, including “push factors” (i.e. policy requirements) and “pull factors” (i.e. change in culture and behaviors) to achieve a recovery from the covid crisis that will also benefit nature and the environment and that will make similar incidents less likely in future.

### **III. Background report**

The dialogue will be informed by a short background report authored by representatives of Major Groups, the production of which is overseen by the Green Economy Coalition. It will present views of Civil Society representatives on the theme of the dialogue, and may result in possible proposals from both Member States and Major Groups on how to “build back better and greener” in practice, The content of the report includes:

- The impacts of COVID 19 on nature and environment
- Policy responses and lessons learned
- Ongoing challenges and opportunities

Authors for the report include:

- Emily Benson, Green Economy Coalition (coordinator and lead author)
- Gitika Goswami, Development Alternatives Group, India [ggoswami@devalt.org](mailto:ggoswami@devalt.org)
- Leslie Forsyth, FNI, Peru
- Linde Wolters, Adelphi
- Mirko Zürker, SEED
- De Wel, Bert, International Trade Union Confederation
- Nicole Leotaud, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
- Elize Hattingh, Tips, South Africa
- Gaylor Montmasson-Clair, Tips, South Africa
- Paul Farran, Climate Network Australia

The report will be made available end of January 2022.

### **IV. Participants in the dialogue**

Participants to the dialogue include:

- 6 presenters from stakeholder, taking into account regional and gender balance, who will give short statements, including
  - Authors of the background report
  - A Youth Representative
  - A business and industry representative
  - Others

who will present:

- Main messages from the background report
  - Main expectations from MGS from Policy Makers
  - Main offers for cooperation from MGS
  - Exemplary stories on how COVID 10 affected nature and environment
  - Push factors (i.e. regulatory requirements) and pull factors (i.e. change in culture behavior) to build back greener
- **Governmental discussants** preferably from ministerial level
  - **Discussants from Major Groups and Stakeholders** representing the nine Major Groups, Inter-governmental Organizations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements etc.

The dialogue will be coordinated and managed by the Green Economy Coalition, in close cooperation with UNEP. The Green Economy Coalition will provide a skillful moderator experienced in running inter-active dialogues in an inter-governmental setting.

## 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. The audience will be given the opportunity to shape and guide the discussions. Simultaneous translation in all UN languages will be provided.

It will have the following set-up

16.30 – 16.40	Introduction by moderator(s) on the theme and participants
16.40 – 17.20	Section 1: Statements by Stakeholders, Responses from Member States
17.20 – 18.00	Section 2: Dialogue/Question and answers open to all participants

## 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.