

## Leadership Dialogue: Strengthening Action for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Wednesday, 2 March 2022, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (EAT)

Hybrid, Nairobi

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### I. Introduction

#### Introduction

In line with the approved [draft structure](#) of the resumed session of the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) to be held from 28 February to 2 March 2022, a 90-minute Leadership Dialogue will take place on the UNEA-5 theme of ‘Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals’, in a hybrid setting on Wednesday, 2 March 2022 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm EAT.

This Leadership Dialogue intends to bring together stakeholders from across governments, the scientific community, civil society, private sector, the UN system and other international organizations for an engaging discussion on how we can strengthen action for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of nature, in line with the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). To this end, the dialogue aims to both touch upon the preconditions for the success of such actions and to showcase examples of concrete initiatives that people, governments and organizations around the world are taking to heal our broken relationship with nature, whilst contributing to the achievement of several SDGs.

#### Scope of the dialogue

In her report to UNEA-5, the Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, identified four key topics that form part of our global response to the intertwined planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution:

- 1. Nature for Health** - marine plastic litter/plastic pollution; zoonotic diseases
- 2. Nature for jobs, poverty eradication and economic prosperity** - Building back better from the pandemic by investing directly in nature
- 3. Nature for climate** - Action to match commitments regarding ecosystems-based solutions and biodiversity
- 4. Nature for sustainable food systems** - Reducing agriculture’s impact on nature: nourished people on a thriving planet.

UNEP's synthesis report on *Making peace with nature*<sup>[1]</sup> further highlighted the role of "Ambitious and coordinated action by governments businesses and people around the world" to prevent and reverse the worst impacts of environmental decline. Similarly, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework currently being negotiated under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims to provide a blueprint for urgent broad-based action across government and society worldwide "to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity". The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's flagship report "[Becoming #GenerationRestoration](#)" found that countries have already committed to restoring 1 billion hectares. However, less is known about the progress towards commitments, or the quality of restoration. To live in harmony with nature we will need to transform social and economic systems, recognize and understand nature's intrinsic value, and put that value at the heart of our decision-making. To achieve such transformative change at an appropriate scale, whole of society approaches are needed and in particular embedding nature in decisions of non-environmental actors. Stakeholders across government and society could and are starting to play "individual, complementary and nested roles" to bring about cross-sectoral and economy-wide transformative change with immediate and long-term impact to conserve and sustainably use nature, the very foundation of sustainable development.

"Transformation involves a fundamental change in the technological, economic and social organization of society, including worldviews, norms, values and governance."

[1] The first UNEP synthesis report entitled: "*Making peace with nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies*" (2021).

The Leadership Dialogue aims to expand the conversation beyond environmental actors, inviting participants to highlight the opportunities for strengthening action for nature to achieve the SDGs. Panelists and participants are invited to reflect on the role of **behavioral change, shifting social, economic and financial paradigms**, as important enablers for strengthening action for nature. Moreover, participants will be invited to showcase specific actions and initiatives they are taking, as a government, community, financial institution, business, international organization. These will include examples related, amongst others, to the four topics identified by the Executive Director of UNEP in her report to UNEA as potential areas of action.

## **II. Format and approach**

The leadership dialogues will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, in Conference Room 1 and online, from 11:30 to 13:00 Nairobi time with a total duration of 90 minutes.

The leadership dialogues will be held in hybrid format and interpretation will be provided in all six official UN languages, using the platform "Interactio". Participants or their aides will be required to ensure connection to the platform prior to the Leadership Dialogue and to familiarize themselves with the platform in advance (by participating in one of the dedicated training sessions offered by the Secretariat).

The proposed conference room arrangements for those attending in person are illustrated in the image below:

## Proposed approach



Proposed layout in Conference Room 1 for the High-Level Leadership Dialogues.

The first hemicycle will be occupied by the pre-registered Contributing Ministers (or HoD). In the front will be the Invited Guests and the Moderator.



### III. Participation

The session is open to the participation of representatives of Member States, members of specialized agencies, United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations and regional economic integration organizations, as well as to representatives of accredited major groups and stakeholders' organizations.

The Leadership Dialogue will involve the participation of pre-registered Contributing Ministers, invited guests, moderator, and rapporteur.

- a) **Pre-registered Contributing Ministers.** Ministers wishing to participate in the dialogues have been invited to express that interest to the Secretariat of Governing Bodies indicating so, at their earliest convenience, but not later than 10 February 2022. Considering the duration of the dialogue (90 minutes), it is envisaged the participation of up to 5 – 10 Contributing Ministers in the discussion session. Contributing Ministers will be selected from those registered, according to the first come, first served principle, and taking into consideration a balanced gender and geographical representation. Although in-person participation is recommended, contributing Ministers might join and participate virtually.
- b) **Moderators.** The dialogue will be facilitated by an experienced facilitator with knowledge on the specific topic of the dialogue. The Moderator will play a key role in facilitating a dynamic and engaging exchange of views among participants.

- c) **Rapporteurs.** The dialogue will have a representative from Member States serving as rapporteur for the dialogue. Rapporteurs will capture key messages from the interventions, exchange of views, and conclusions, that will serve as inputs for the summary of the special session on UNEA-5 that will be prepared by the Chair.

#### IV. Dialogue Topics

##### Guiding questions

- What do you see as important barriers for strengthening action for nature to achieve the SDGs, and how might they be overcome?
- How can we achieve the behavioural changes required among producers, consumers, and citizens in general to ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production?
- What kind of support, policies or instruments are needed to urgently transform the social, economic and legal paradigms that are harmful to nature and jeopardize achieving the SDGs?
- What specific actions are you/your organization taking for nature to address plastic pollution/ combat climate change/ reduce poverty / make agriculture sustainable, etc?

##### Intended outcome of Leadership Dialogue

The Leadership Dialogue will contribute directly to the objectives of UNEA, and in doing so is intended to challenge and inspire governments, companies, communities and individuals to take ambitious and transformative action for nature. The event will contribute to enhancing a broader understanding among policy makers and other stakeholders about the importance of actions across social, economic and legal paradigms in catalyzing, driving and sustaining transformative change. Moreover, given the broad range of interventions from diverse stakeholders, it is anticipated that the dialogue will signal to participants worldwide that they are part of the solution, and empower them to take bold action to fix our broken relationship with nature.

#### V. List of speakers (provisional)

|                 |  |   |           |
|-----------------|--|---|-----------|
| <b>Morocco</b>  | Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco | HE Leila Benali   | In person |
| <b>EU</b>       | EU Commissioner for Environment and Fisheries                        | Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius                              | In person |
| <b>Slovenia</b> | Minister of the Environment and Spatial planning                     | H.E. Andrej Vizjak                                      | Online    |
| <b>UK</b>       | Minister of State for the Pacific and the International Environment  | The Right Hon. the Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park (Mr) | In person |

|                    |   |                                  |           |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Korea</b>       | Ministry of Environment   | Minister, H.E HAN, Jeoun         | Online    |
| <b>Sweden</b>      | Minister for Climate and the Environment  | Ms Annika Strandhäll             | In person |
| <b>USA</b>         | Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs | Monica Medina                    | In person |
| <b>Barbados</b>    | Minister of Environment and National Beautification                                   | Minister Adrian Ford             | In person |
| <b>France</b>      | Minister of Ecological Transition   | HE Ms Pompili                    | In person |
| <b>Colombia</b>    | Minister of Environment   | H.E. Carlos Eduardo Correa Escaf | In person |
| <b>Denmark</b>     | Minister of Environment   | Ms Lia Wermelin                  | In person |
| <b>Fiji</b>        | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Waterways and Environment                            | Mr. Joshua Wycliffe              | In person |
| <b>Belgium</b>     | Minister for Climate and Environment  | HE Zakia Khattabi                | In person |
| <b>Palestine</b>   | Chairman of the Environmental Quality Authority                                       | H.E Dr. Nisreen Tamimi           | In person |
| <b>Netherlands</b> | Vice Minister of the Environment  | HE R.P. Lapperre                 | In person |
| <b>Ethiopia</b>    | Director General, Environmental Protection Authority                                  | H.E. Dr. Getahun Garede Wodaje   | In person |
| <b>Indonesia</b>   | TBC   | TBC                              | In person |

## VI. Provisional Agenda

| Time          | Agenda                | Duration | Speaker       | Remarks   |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|---|
| 11:32-11:35   | Opening               | 3 mins   | Moderator     | Moderator introduces the dialogue and set out structure |
| 11:35 – 11:40 | Scene setting remarks | 5 mins   | Amina Mohamed | DSG to set the scene                                    |

|               |                                    |                       |                       |   |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 11:40-11:55   | Remarks by invited panelists       | 15 mins               | Panelists             | Panelists will respond to questions presented to them by the moderator.   |
| 11:55 – 11:57 | Video intervention                 | 2 mins                | Marianna Muntianu     | A 2-minute video to be displayed on screen  |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Remarks from ministers/governments | 45 mins (3 mins each) | Ministers/governments | Pre-registered ministers will have the opportunity to contribute to the dialogue. Moderator will be calling on ministers- (3 mins each) |
| 12:45 – 12:55 | Reflections from invited guests    | 10 mins (3 mins each) | Panelists             | Panelists will have an opportunity to respond to minister/ gov contributions  |
| 12:55 – 12:57 | Video intervention                 | 2 mins                | Louise Mabulo         | A 2-minute video to be displayed on screen  |
| 12:57-13:00   | Closing                            |                       | Moderator             | Moderator to share final reflections and close the dialogue   |






1. MODERATOR & PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES:

**Moderator: Victoria Rubadiri, Journalist, Moderator, Communications Specialist**





Victoria Rubadiri is an award-winning Kenyan journalist known most for her ability to connect with her audience and tell compelling stories. She is the recipient of the 2020 BBC Komla Dumor Award. She currently co-anchors Kenya’s most-watched primetime news broadcast Sunday Live on Citizen TV. Victoria also anchors the Citizen Weekend primetime news bulletin on Saturday. She has worked in radio and television for a decade both in Kenya and the US. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Broadcast Journalism from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Victoria was one of the minds behind Kenya’s top-rated talk show ‘Victoria’s Lounge.’ She hosted it for three years attracting nearly a million viewers per episode, touching on topics ranging from mental health, gender equality and governance.

| Photo | Speaker and Title   | Bio   |
|-------|---|---|
|       | <p>Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group</p> <p><i>in person</i></p> | <p>Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 2015-2017, where she steered the country’s efforts on climate action and efforts to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>Ms. Mohammed first joined the United Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Ms. Mohammed began her career working on the design of schools and clinics in Nigeria. She served as an advocate focused on increasing access to education and other social services, before moving into the public sector, where she rose to the position of adviser to four successive Presidents on poverty, public sector reform, and sustainable development.</p> |
|       | <p>Ms. Elizabeth Wathuti, Youth activist, Founder of Green Generation Initiative, Kenya</p> <p><i>in person</i></p>                             | <p>Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti is a Kenyan environment and climate activist and founder of the Green Generation Initiative, which nurtures young people to love nature and be environmentally conscious at a young age and has planted over 30,000 tree seedlings in Kenya. In 2016 she received the Wangari Maathai Scholarship Award for her outstanding passion and personal commitment to environmental conservation. In 2019, she was awarded the Africa Green Person of the Year Award by the Eleven Eleven Twelve</p>  |

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|   |   | <p>Foundation, she received the Young Climate Champion Award from the Green Climate Fund, and was a regional finalist for the UN Young Champions of the Earth. Today she is the head of campaigns at Wangari Maathai Foundation, and a full member of the Greenbelt Movement and a Global Youth in Landscape Leadership.</p>  |
|    | <p>Mr. Guy Loando Mboyo, Minister of Land Use Planning, DRC</p> <p><i>in person</i></p>                   | <p>Guy Loando was appointed Minister of State in charge of Land Use Planning in April 2021. Since 2019 he has been a member of the Senate representing Tshuapa. Guy Loando is a lawyer by training and had a successful legal career before joining politics. In 2018, together with his wife Deborah Loando, he founded the Widal Foundation to fight poverty in DRC.</p>  |
|   | <p>Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)</p> <p><i>in person</i></p>    | <p>Achim Steiner is the UNDP Administrator and the Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group. Over nearly three decades, Achim Steiner has been a global leader on sustainable development, climate resilience and international cooperation. He was Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow of Balliol College, University of Oxford. He led the United Nations Environment Programme from 2006 to 2016, and he was previously the Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams.</p>   |
|  | <p>Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of the Arabic Republic of Egypt</p> <p><i>in person</i></p> | <p>As Minister of Environment since 2018, and previously Assistant Minister of Environment since 2014, Dr. Fouad leads a transformational change in environment sector in Egypt. She has extensive expertise in Environment and International cooperation, with more than 18 years' experience working in Government, in UN organisations, NGOs and Universities. This includes playing a lead role advancing the biodiversity Agenda, and leading the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in her capacity as the President of the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14). She will act as Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy for COP27, alongside COP27 President designate (Sameh Shoukry, Foreign Minister). She has also initiated the Egyptian Initiative, that aims at ensuring synergies among the three Rio Conventions (Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Desertification) - to ensure</p> |



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|  |  | sufficient financial resources to tackle those related challenges.  |
|   | <p>Ms. Marianna Muntianu, Youth activist, Founder and President of the Russian Climate Fund</p> <p><i>Video contribution</i></p> | <p>Following severe forest fires that destroyed around two million hectares of forest in Russia in 2010, Mutianu joined the environmental protection movement ECA, which successfully replanted 10 million trees by 2015. In 2019, Muntianu was awarded the UN Prize "Young Champions of the Earth" for her innovative approach to protecting the environment. She received the award for developing the mobile phone game "Plant the Forest" which allows users to virtually plant trees on wasteland, protect the resulting forests from fire and pests, and experience how the animals return there. Users also have the option to donate money to support reforestation efforts in real life. In 2020, Muntianu founded her own organization, the Russian Climate Fund, to foster forest restoration and climate protection in her native homeland.</p> |
|  | <p>Louisa Mabulo, Young Champion of the Earth</p> <p><i>Video contribution</i></p>   | <p>Louise is an award-winning chef, farmer, and entrepreneur. She is the Founder of The Cacao Project, a social venture aimed at equipping farmers for sustainable success.</p> <p>Louise is a UNEP Young Champion of the Earth, Outstanding Farmer of the Year 2018, and was recognized as the Outstanding Youth Ambassador at the 21st Session of the United Nations Youth Assembly. She was a finalist in the TV reality cooking show, Junior MasterChef. She finished Economic Development and Social Entrepreneurship at Brown University, U.S.A., and the Watson Institute Philippines.</p>   |