



THE RESUMED FIFTH UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

UNEA 5.2

Multi Stakeholder Dialogue: Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the SDGs

March 1, 2022

16:30 – 18:00 pm

Hybrid format

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 26 February 2022)

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.

The MSD is informed by the report “**Building Back Greener**” **(Annex 1)**. The Dialogue will take place on March 1, 2022, between 4.30 and 6 pm, in CR 1, and online.

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

The report can be found in Annex 1.

IV. Participants in the dialogue

Participants to the dialogue include:

- 4 presenters from stakeholder, taking into account regional and gender balance, who will give short statements, including
 - Gitika Goswami, Development Alternatives Group, India
 - Stewart Harris, Senior Director, Global Plastics Policy, America Chemistry Council
 - Bruno Oberle, Executive Director, IUCN
 - Alejandra Parra , Zero Waste and Plastics Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean for GAIA and Break Free from Plastics

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 respondents** preferably from ministerial level
 - **Respondents 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.

Speakers

Dr. Bruno Oberle



Dr Bruno Oberle assumed office as Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in July 2020. He brings over 40 years of experience to IUCN at a time when redefining humanity's relationship with nature was more urgent than ever. Before joining IUCN, Dr Oberle served in some of Switzerland's most prestigious positions related to the environment. Between 2005 and 2015, as State Secretary for the Environment and Director of the Federal Office for the Environment for Switzerland, he represented Switzerland in leading international institutions and international negotiations, playing a key role in the Global Environment Facility and in the establishment of the Green Climate Fund.

Dr Oberle is a leading expert in the fields of sustainable resource management and green economy and has explored and shaped the interface between environmental policy, economic development and social equity from the perspective of state regulator, entrepreneur and scientist.

Prior to joining IUCN, Dr Oberle served as Chair of the Green Economy and Resource Governance programme at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) from 2016, where he also headed the International Risk Governance Centre.

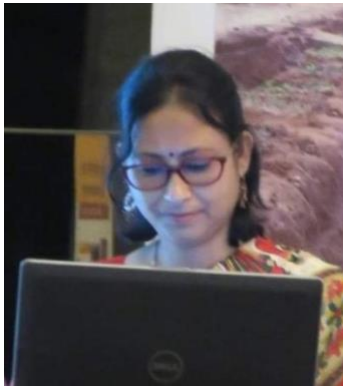
Stewart Harris



Stewart Harris is Senior Director of Global Plastics Policy at the American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Plastics Division. Stewart is responsible for developing and implementing ACC's global policy to create a more circular economy for plastics to eliminate plastic waste. He is Chair of the plastics industry's Global Action Team, which implements the Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter. As part of the Global Declaration, 80 signatories from 43 countries have implemented over 395 projects addressing marine litter since 2011. Stewart engages in international advocacy and global diplomacy on behalf of the World Plastics Council and International Council of Chemical Associations. He

has a Master of Science degree in Marine-Estuarine Environmental Science from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Bucknell University. Stewart enjoys spending time on the Chesapeake Bay with his wife and two boys.

Gitika Goswami



Gitika, from India, has twenty-three years of professional experience in the environment and development sector. She has been working at Development Alternatives (DA) for the last five years as Associate Vice President & Lead Policy Research & Planning. Her current portfolio includes Climate Change Resilience, Inclusive Development and Sustainable Consumption and Production, with a mandate of influencing and supporting public policy in the transition towards a green, inclusive, and sustainable economy.

Across all the verticals, her focus areas of functions are sustainability research, collaborative perspective buildings, capacity development and planning and advocacy for policy change. Her specialization includes climate change adaptation, nature-based solutions, natural capital and SDGs both in rural and urban landscapes. She is an active member of several networks including the Green Economy Coalition (GEC) and she leads the work of mainstreaming green transition at the national level in India especially in the Construction, Agri and allied sector, and eco-tourism. She is also a working group member of Natural Capital for GGKP from India, a member of Adaptation Fund NGO Network, IUCN GBM CSO Network for six countries, and CAN South Asia. Before joining DA, she has worked at WWF-India, UNDP, MoEFCC- NATCOM Cell, and Winrock International India, and has several publications on her work focusing on issues of Climate Change Adaptation, Economics of Land Degradation, Nature-Based Solutions, Joint Forest Management and Community livelihoods, and green economy.

Alejandra Parra Muñoz



Born in Temuco, Chile, where she lives to this day. Master in Planning from the University of Otago, Biologist in Management of Natural Resources, co-founding member of the Action Network for Environmental Rights RADA. With twenty years of experience in socio-environmental activism, she was part of the environmental racism complaint against the State of Chile for the installation of municipal landfills and sewage treatment plants in Mapuche communities in the Araucanía region. Together with RADA, she develops actions to support communities in socio-environmental conflict in the Araucanía region. She also carries out citizen environmental education actions, promoting the zero waste strategy and a critical vision of the prevailing global economic system. It also develops advocacy actions on public policies at the local, regional, country and international levels, in coordination with organizations and networks such as the Network for the Defense of the Territories, the Social and Territorial Organizations of Wallmapu, the Alianza Basura Cero Chile, the Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives GAIA, among others. She is currently part of the GAIA Latin American team, and a board member of Global Justice Ecology Project.