



**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY**  
**UNEP@50**

**Multi Stakeholder Dialogue:**  
**Strengthening UNEP for the implementation of the environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda  
for Sustainable Development**

**March 4, 2022**

**15:00 – 16:30 pm**

**Hybrid format**

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

4 March 2022

(Version 25 February 2022)

---

#### I. Introduction

The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) at the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 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, in CR 1, and online.

#### II. Theme

The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) 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 (MGS) 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 (MGS).

#### 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.

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

Participants to the dialogue include (tbc):

- 5 presenters from stakeholders, taking into account gender- and regional balance, who will give short statements, including
  - Dr. Maria Ivanova, University of Massachusetts, Boston, author of: “The Untold Story of the World's Leading Environmental Institution: UNEP at Fifty”;
  - Mr. Jan Gustav Strandenaes, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future;
  - Rev. Canon Dr. Rachel Mash, environmental coordinator of the Anglican Church based in South Africa;
  - Ms. Lucy Muchoki, Pan African Agribusiness and Agro Industry Consortium;
  - Mr. Fabio Arturo López Alfaro, International Science Council, Youth representative, Mexico, co-author of the “UNEP We Want” report.

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 moderated by Mr. Joe Agyeo, Citizen TV Kenya, ensuring an interactive 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 and other representatives
3.50pm – 4.20pm	Section 2: Dialogue/Question and answers open to all participants
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.

## Speakers

### Dr. Maria Ivanova



Dr. Maria Ivanova, from Bulgaria, is international relations and environmental policy scholar. She is Associate Professor of Global Governance, Director of the [Global Governance and Human Security MA and PhD Program](#), and Director of the [Center for Governance and Sustainability](#) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She is also a visiting scholar at the Center for Collective Intelligence at MIT.

Her work focuses on the performance of international institutions, implementation of international environmental agreements, and sustainability. Ivanova's career has bridged academia and policy. Her academic work has been recognized for bringing analytical rigor and innovative input to the international negotiations on reforming the UN system for environment. She works closely with national governments, UN agencies, and convention secretariats in providing an academic perspective into their international environmental governance work. Her book on the United Nations Environment Programme, [The Untold Story of the World's Leading Environmental Institution: UNEP at Fifty](#), was published by MIT Press in 2021. Her current work examines national performance on global environmental conventions, and she engages with countries in East Africa to inform policy.

Ivanova holds a PhD (with distinction) and two master's degrees, in international relations and environmental management, from Yale University, and a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College.

### Mr. Jan-Gustav Strandenaes



Jan-Gustav Strandenaes began working with the UN on environment and governance in the 1970s, a first UN assignment brought him to Latin America. He has taught about the UN for more than five decades; worked with the UN Commission for Sustainable Development for 15 years; worked as an NGO liaison officer at the UN HQ; worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, as a diplomat at embassies in Botswana and Uganda and was for 15 years the director of a Norwegian aid/environment-NGO with projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. For decades, beginning with Stockholm in 1972, he has delivered projects for UNEP on stakeholder engagement and governance issues and had assignments for UNDESA.

He has extensive stakeholder experience through 50 years of work on all continents, speaks several languages, is a seasoned university lecturer, evaluated projects and organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, advised governments, chaired UN meetings, facilitated UN processes, translated and authored books and numerous articles on governance and democracy, the environment, and sustainable development.

An independent researcher, he is a keen traveller – he once crossed the Kalahari Desert in a Land Rover, and when not traveling, he works out of his home outside Oslo, Norway.

### **Rev Dr. Rachel Mash**



Rev Dr. Rachel Mash from the City of Cape Town (South Africa), is the Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network (Green Anglicans), which comprises of South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini and Namibia. She is the secretary of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and member of the ecumenical Season of Creation steering committee. In 2021, the Archbishop of Canterbury awarded her the Cross of St Augustine for Services to the Anglican Communion for raising awareness of and the urgent need to implement the Fifth Mark of Mission in the Anglican Communion.

She is a member of the UNEA Faith 4 Earth task team on pollution. This is the second UNEA where she is representing the Anglican Communion and will also be a representative at UNCSW66.

### **Ms. Lucy Muchoki**



Lucy Muchoki, from Kenya, is the chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium, PanAAC, an organization created to support the African Agribusiness through enhanced productivity and competitiveness. She studied Social Sciences at the University of Nairobi and also attained a Master's degree in Business management. She has extensive training on value chain development at a regional and international level.

She worked for more than a decade at the international Centre of Insect and physiology (ICIPE) as the head of commercialization of research. Last year, Lucy was appointed as one of the UN FOOD system champion due to her passion on sustainable food security in Africa with special focus on smallholder farmers and SME's. She is a member of the task force formed by African Union to support the organization of Regional Agribusiness platform for mobilizing and supporting the domestic private Sector in Africa both at national and continental level.

Beside this, she serves in various advisory councils and steering committee membership for different Agribusiness leadership organizations both at regional and Global level.

She is the current acting Chair of Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Non State actors regional taskforce and she has been instrumental in developing the Agribusiness strategy for Africa through collaboration with African Union Commission (AUC) and Nepad planning and coordinating Agency (NPCA)

Lucy is an accomplished entrepreneur. She runs her own company Africa Natural products that deals with green energy and tree products including tea.

**Mr. Fabio Arturo López Alfaro**



Fabio Arturo, from Mexico, is an Earth and Space Science graduate from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). His professional experience encompasses working with international cooperation on market-based policy mechanisms, climate governance at the subnational level, the intersection of air quality and human rights, and global ocean governance.

Through his role as one of the [High Seas Alliance](#)'s Youth Ambassadors he works towards advancing youth and public awareness of the importance of the high seas as well as advocating for a more ambitious and conservation-focused positions on legally binding instruments under UNCLOS.

Furthermore, as Innovation Catalyst for WWF Ecuador he is supporting the local A-Team in laying the groundwork for a transformative innovation culture and to contribute to the broader WWF's innovation strategy and conservation goals.

Since August 2021, he joined the UNEP@50 Task Force as one of the co-authors of *The UNEP We Want* report.