

**Special session to commemorate the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme  
(UNEP@50) - 3-4 March 2022**

***High-Level Leadership Dialogue “Looking forward: Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
Development for people and planet.”***

**Updated concept note**

**I. Time and venue**

Time: 11:30-13:00 (EAT) on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Venue: United Nations Office at Nairobi, Conference Room 1

**II. Objective of the UNEP@50 Leadership Dialogues**

The UNEP@50 leadership dialogues “Looking back” and “Looking forward” aim to promote an interactive high-level conversation on the **journey of five decades of environmental action**, global environmental multilateralism, and international environmental cooperation, **and to exchange views to chart a path to strengthen UNEP for the next 50 years**, particularly with regards to the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

The UNEP Executive Director’s report [“Reflecting on the past and imagining the future: a contribution to the dialogue on the science-policy interface” \(UNEP/EA.SS.1/2\)](#) and the [Major Groups and Stakeholders’ report “The UNEP We Want”](#) will serve as background documents for both dialogues. You are encouraged to read these documents in advance of the event.

The Leadership Dialogue “Looking forward: Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for people and Planet” aims to exchange views on what is needed over the next 50 years for UNEP to deliver the environmental dimension of sustainable development, with a focus on reinvigorated environmental multilateralism within the frame of relevant international frameworks. The dialogue will explore how the science-policy interface and the global environmental governance system can remain fit-for-purpose, keeping up with societal changes and improving transparency, inclusivity,

intergenerational considerations and solidarity, while accelerating global action in response to the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste).

### III. Dialogue topics, invited guests and moderation

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Moderation</b>   | <b>Femi Oke</b> , International Journalist and Broadcaster  |
| <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Invited guests</b>   |
| Duties to the future: Tackling the triple planetary crisis through the lens of present and future generations.  | <b>Vanessa Nakate</b> , Climate justice activist and founder of the Africa-based Rise Up Movement.                                    |
| Keeping the promise: “Future-proofing” the science-policy interface.  | <b>Izabella Teixeira</b> , Co-chair of International Resource Panel, Former Minister of Environment of Brazil (virtual participation) |
| Moving towards a net-negative, nature positive and pollution free future: Accelerating action, including through adequate funding, digital transformations and capacity building. | <b>Linda Zeilina</b> , Founder and CEO of the International Sustainable Finance Centre (ISFC).  |
| Networked and inclusive environmental multilateralism in a post-pandemic digital age: the role of private sector.   | <b>Bruno Oberle</b> , Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)   |
| <b>10 pre-registered Ministers of Environment and guests (see provisional list below)</b>   |   |

### IV. Structure of the Dialogue

| Time               | Agenda  | Duration (min)            | Speaker                    |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>11:30-11:33</b> | Opening   | 3                         | Moderator                  |
| <b>11:33-11:38</b> | Remarks from UNEP Executive Director            | 5                         | UNEP Executive Director    |
| <b>11:38-12:03</b> | Remarks from invited guests                     | 25 (5 minutes each guest) | Invited guests             |
| <b>12:03-12:48</b> | Remarks from Ministers/governments/other guests | 45 (3 minutes each)       | Ministers and other guests |

|                    |                                 |                     |                |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>12:48-13:03</b> | Reflections from invited guests | 15 (3 minutes each) | Invited guests |
| <b>13:03-13:06</b> | Closing                         | 3                   | Moderator      |

## V. Background documents and useful links

- [UNEP Executive Director’s report “Reflecting on the past and imagining the future: a contribution to the dialogue on the science-policy interface” \(UNEP/EA.SS.1/2\)](#)
- [Major Groups and Stakeholders’ report “The UNEP We Want”](#)
- [Pre-session documents UNEA 5](#)
- [Practical information note for Participants – \(UN complex, accommodation, VISA, medical services\)](#)
- [Structure for UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50](#)
- [Draft concept note for the two UNEP@50 Leadership Dialogues](#)

## VI. Bios

### Invited Guests

**Vanessa Nakate, Climate justice activist and founder of the Africa-based Rise Up Movement.**



Vanessa Nakate, 25, is a climate justice activist from Uganda and founder of the Africa-based Rise Up Movement. She began striking for the climate in her home town of Kampala in January 2019, after witnessing droughts and flooding devastating communities in Uganda. She now campaigns internationally to highlight the impacts of climate change already playing out in Africa, as well as promoting key climate solutions such as educating girls. In 2020, Vanessa was named a UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as being listed one of the BBC’s 100 Women of the year and the 100 most influential young Africans.

Vanessa’s social media handles: IG: @vanessanakate1, Twitter: @vanessa\_vash

**Izabella Teixeira, Co-chair of International Resource Panel, Former Minister of Environment of Brazil**



Mrs. Izabella Mônica Vieira Teixeira is a native Brazilian. She holds a Ph.D. in Energy Planning and was Brazil’s Minister of the Environment (2010 – 2016). From 2008 to 2010, she was the Deputy Minister of the Environment. Her international experience comes from the negotiation and management of international projects in Brazil (e.g., PPG7,). By the invitation of UN Secretary General, she was a member of the High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability. She was also a key leader of the 2012 UN’s Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. After Rio+20 she was again appointed by the UN Secretary-General as a member of the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015

Development Agenda (SDGs and Agenda 2030).

In 2015, Minister Teixeira was Head of the Brazilian Delegation on negotiations of the Paris Agreement of the UN Convention on Climate Change. For her outstanding career, in 2013 Minister Izabella Teixeira received the United Nations Environment Program “Champions of the Earth” award for Policy Leadership. Today, she is Co-Chair of The International Resource Panel – IRP/UNEP-ONU, Board Member of UN DESA, Senior Fellow of Institute Arapyaú, and Trustee for Environment and Climate Change of Brazilian Center for International Relations- CEBRI.

**Linda Zeilina, Founder and CEO of the International Sustainable Finance Centre (ISFC)**



Linda is the Founder & CEO of the International Sustainable Finance Centre (ISFC), where she oversees its work on sustainability strategies and sustainable investing. Linda, a native of Latvia, is a Fellow at The Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in London, and a non-executive director at a successful London-based sustainable logistics startup, *Pedal Me*. She is also an advisory board member at the Romanian Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (RoSIF) and a Member of the Agora Energiewende Council for Europe.

In 2021, Linda spent time as a Policy Leader Fellow at the EU’s School of Transnational Governance in Florence, where she focused on the EU sustainable finance rules and the role of impact investing. Previously, Linda was a Director at Re-Define, a London-based boutique consultancy working on advising major financial sector actors across Europe and in the US on climate finance and climate stress tests. Linda’s work in the past has focused on ways to drive transformational change, and how to develop and implement sustainability initiatives. Over the years, she has worked as an advisor to prominent politicians, large asset managers, pension funds and European investment funds.

Linda has been honored as a New Security Leader by the Warsaw Security Forum and a Future European Leader by the Prague European Summit. Linda is an alumna of the University of Glasgow, McGill University and the London School of Economics.

**Bruno Oberle, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

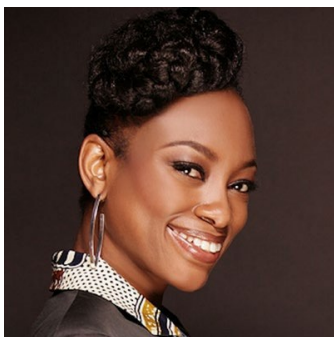


Dr Bruno Oberle assumed office as Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in July 2020. He brings over 40 years of experience to IUCN at a time when redefining humanity’s relationship with nature is more urgent than ever. Before joining IUCN, Dr Bruno Oberle served 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.

**Moderator**

**Femi Oke, International Journalist and Broadcaster**



Femi Oke is an award-winning international journalist, broadcaster, professional moderator and co-founder of the diverse moderators’ bureau “Moderate The Panel.” Based in Washington, D.C., she hosts the interactive global affairs show “The Stream” for Al Jazeera English; is a correspondent for the Al Jazeera documentary series “Fault Lines”; and the social media correspondent for NPR’s midday news program “Here and Now.”

Femi’s reporting has been recognized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Communications Agency and InterAction. Since the 1980s, she has worked for BBC television and radio,

Sky TV, all the U.K. terrestrial television networks, CNN, U.S. public radio and Al Jazeera. As a professional moderator Femi has presided over world class events including European Development Days for the European Commission, NBA Africa Celebratory Luncheon for the U.S. National Basketball Association, and the UN Secretary-General’s 2020 UNGA Climate Roundtable.

Femi’s social media handle: @FemiOke

List of pre-registered, contributing Ministers and guests (in order of appearance) (PROVISIONAL)

|     | <b>COUNTRY</b>                     | <b>NAME</b>                  | <b>TITLE</b>  | <b>FORMAT</b> |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1.  | <b>India</b>                       | Mr. Bhupender Yadav          | Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change                                       | In person     |
| 2.  | <b>Germany</b>                     | Ms. Steffi Lemke             | Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection       | In person     |
| 3.  | <b>Zambia</b>                      | Hon. Eng. Collins Nzovu (Mr) | Minister of Green Economy and Environment   | In person     |
| 4.  | <b>Grenada</b>                     | Mr. Simon Stiehl             | Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management, Information | In person     |
| 5.  | <b>Bulgaria</b>                    | Mr. Borislav Sandov          | Deputy Prime Minister for Climate Policies and Minister of Environment and Water                        | In person     |
| 6.  | <b>Yemen</b>                       | Mr. Tawfeeq Al Sharjabi      | Minister of Water and Environment   | In person     |
| 7.  | <b>Estonia</b>                     | H.E. Mr Erki Savisaar        | Vice President of UNEA and Minister Representative of Environment of the Republic of Estonia            | In person     |
| 8.  | <b>Gabon</b>                       | Professor Lee White (Mr)     | Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea, and Environment  | In person     |
| 9.  | <b>Luxembourg</b>                  | Ms. Carole Dieschbourg       | Minister of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development  | In person     |
| 10. | <b>Global Environment Facility</b> | Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez  | CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility  | In person     |