

**STOCKHOLM+50: PREPARATORY MEETING
VIRTUAL, EMBASSY OF CANADA IN BERLIN, GERMANY
March 28TH, 2022, 16:50- 17:10 CET**

Special Envoy Stéphane Dion Talking points:

Introductory Remarks for Interactive discussion on the background documents for Leadership Dialogue 1 (5 minutes, English)

- **Dear President of the General Assembly, co-Presidents of the Stockholm +50 process, the UNEP, Honourable colleagues,**
- **We have two months left of preparations before the crucial Stockholm conference, to take place in June. Hence the great importance of this preparatory session.**
- **Rest assured that I would so much rather be with you and H.E. Mr. Cristian Espinosa, however, unfortunately, this was simply impossible due to my duties as Ambassador to Germany and Prime Minister Trudeau's Special Envoy to the EU and Europe, especially with the additional urgent tasks caused by President Putin's brutal war on Ukraine.**
- **What a terrible misfortune for Ukraine and all the victims of this war, but also for humanity, which will once again lose its energy in war and destruction, instead of combining its efforts to reconcile itself with our planet.**
- **And so sadly, I cannot be with you in person at the UN General Assembly, but please be assured that Canada is strongly present through Erin Silsbe, Director of the International Affairs Branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada, who is onsite with you all. I encourage you to take advantage of her presence; Erin is a devoted servant to our necessary cooperation.**
- **The objective of Leadership Dialogue one is very ambitious: it is to identify key actions and solutions to achieve a healthy planet for all now and in the future.**
- **In fact, it is really about reversing the current trend, which too often relies on self-destructive development; we need to find sustainable development paths that future generations can also benefit from. There is no future development with a deprived and deteriorating ecosystem.**

- **You have the opportunity to direct these paths of sustainable development through today's meeting and the Informal Working Groups.**
- **I was encouraged by the fruitful discussions held during our first Informal Working Group on March 10th, which highlighted a key underlying theme for this Leadership Dialogue: urgency. I look forward to the two other Informal Working Groups that will follow, before the June Summit.**
- **Another theme that emerged from this Leadership Dialogue is: interconnection. The rapid decline of biodiversity and the rising crisis of climate change, which together are threatening our economy, food security, health, and quality of life are, indeed, intrinsically interconnected, as nature plays a critical role in regulating the climate, while climate change is a key driver of biodiversity loss.**
- **Another theme is: collective action. To a global problem, we need a coordinated approach to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, and prevent pollution. For example, utilizing carbon pricing as a key tool and implementing nature-based solutions, such as conserving carbon-rich natural areas and restoring wetlands and mangroves, can help countries tackle these challenges.**
- **The background document for this Leadership Dialogue lays out the variety of issues we need to consider to (1) transform our relationship with nature, (2) produce and consume sustainably and fight pollution and (3) ensure justice, inclusion and intergenerational equity.**
- **Today, we look forward to building on the first Informal Working Group, hearing your views on what concise transformative actions we need to take to accelerate progress towards a better future for a healthy planet, with prosperity for all and that takes into consideration the interlinkages between environmental crises.**
- **I wish you a fruitful discussion. The challenge is worth it.**