

## Key messages LD1 Informal Working Group meeting

### 1. Transforming our relationship with nature and restoring ecosystems

Chaired by Ambassador Stephan Dion - Canada

#### KEY ISSUES RAISED

- **Urgency:** We must work urgently to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis, while avoiding accelerating pollution and unsustainable behaviors. Right now, key habitats and ecosystems such as forests and grasslands are being converted at very high rates for natural resource extraction. By destroying nature, we are destroying the web of life that support our existence on Earth. We must stop being self-destructive.
- **Collaboration:** The climate, biodiversity and inequalities crisis cannot be tackled if we continue working in silos. There is a clear interconnectedness of all these issues. This is why knowledge and technology sharing, collaboration and cooperation (particularly South-South) is vital.
- **Emission reduction:** To address the planetary crisis we need to transform and decarbonise our economies. Many commitments have already been made, most recently at COP26 in Glasgow last year. Yet, concrete actions are needed to close the emission gap.
- **A human-rights based approach** is fundamental to tackle inequalities and planetary emergencies. Women, youth and indigenous people need to have a sit at the decision-making table. The knowledge of Indigenous People and Local Communities needs to be harnessed – and their rights protected – when it comes to building nature-based Solutions.
- **Food system** is one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss, but can also be part of the solution. Transforming the way we consume and produce food would not only increase community's resilience but also help us achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030.
- **Education** needs to be part of all the responses highlighted in this Leadership Dialogue. We need transformative education that provide not only the knowledge and new skills that we will need in the future, but also the value and the agency in order to act in favour of our planet. Education can help us think globally and act locally.
- **Health:** The Covid 19 pandemic exposed the complex relationship between people and nature. The global health crisis highlighted the need for integrated approaches and for building a world where health and well being of people and ecosystems are at the heart.
- **Making peace with nature** is the only possible solution. Policy, economy and governance structure should ensure peace with and within Earth. As the military sector continues to produce emissions and harm biodiversity, military spending and research could be redirected into investment for nature.

## CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- *Establish a new community fund*, particularly to support developing nations in recovering from COVID-19 and building back better and greener.
- Include a commitment on inclusive transition towards nature-positive economy and recommendation for a roadmap by 2030
- A global nature-positive goal should be embedded in the negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Building on existing commitments, including promoting sustainable consumption and production by 2030, UNEA outcome to negotiate a treaty on plastics, commitments made in the framework of UN Food Systems Summit
- Finance – change IMF mandate to channel and direct SDRs to low income countries
- Support the adoption of international crime of ecocide at the International Court of Justice. Recognition of this would be the 5<sup>th</sup> crime against peace. Legal definition of ecocide exists.
- Fair and equitable system of taxation, increase green taxes for those who pollute the most, in light of common but differentiated responsibilities.

## **2. Producing and consuming sustainably and fighting pollution**

*Chaired by Ecuador - Director Walter Schuldt*

### KEY ISSUES RAISED

- **Gender specific** approaches are needed to heal the world. Respect for Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and SDGs needs to be integrated in policymaking.
- Reconciling the trajectory of ecological footprint and human development – unless we track both and look at the full picture, we risk exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.
- We heard that key sectors, like the crucial maritime sector, which underpins global trade, are taking concrete steps to move towards a net-zero future by 2050. We welcome and encourage others to do the same.
- We clearly need to transform the way in which we produce and consume. The need of this transformation pre-existed the Covid-19 pandemic. A comprehensive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic should be based on innovative, clean energy and circular economy principles. Such transformation is particularly relevant for emerging economies where high

impact sectors are expected to experience significant growth, which should bring jobs and sustainability.

- We cannot leave any one behind – indigenous and pastoralist communities need to be protected, their role in achieving SDGs should be acknowledged, and their rights enshrined in governance processes. Prosperity for all cannot just be a slogan.
- The need for a governance framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production was highlighted and the One Planet Network was cited as a possible avenue for progress here. Agri-food systems were mentioned as a key action area where more sustainable practices could both alleviate hunger and malnutrition, and drastically reduce pressure on nature.
- The progress on curbing plastic waste – a Paris Agreement for Plastic Waste – made at UNEA 5.2 was commended and we would endeavor to involve all stakeholders, including children and youth, as we move forward to
- Finally, we need to respect the nature on which our economies and life systems depend. We should also put our trust in science and evidence-based policymaking and recognize and engage faith-based organizations given the important role they play in societies and in influencing culture and values.

### **CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

- Participants suggested a focus on indicators beyond growth – what we measure is what we achieve.
- We also heard suggestions to make sustainable consumption choices easy – by working with media companies and advertisers, and also using fiscal policies to incentivize goods and services which don't harm nature. Participants also suggested rewarding producers who align their businesses with SCP principles and using economic and regulatory tools to provide effective and sustainable incentives.
- We also heard calls to ensure that circular economy transitions have a focus on high-quality and decent job provision – transitions are not linear and we need to be mindful of impact on all communities and think ahead about compensatory policies and communication.
- Lastly, there was a suggestion to evolve the current paradigm of technological transfer from the North to the South – to one of co-development of technologies which can benefit all.

### **3. Social justice and intergenerational equity**

*Co-Chaired by Ecuador and Canada*

### **KEY ISSUES RAISED**

- The triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and nature loss negatively affects the human rights of countless people across the world.

- International human rights law offers a rulebook for averting human rights harms caused by environmental degradation through transformative, people-centered, gender-responsive and sustainable development.
- Recognition by Human Rights Council of Right to Healthy environment is an important step for transformative, people-centered, and gender-responsive sustainable development.
- To successfully ensure a sustainable future for every child and future generations, we must involve them in designing and implementing solutions.
- We heard calls for “Education for all”. Access to education is key to empowering communities to take action, protect their rights and the environment and hold governments to account. The innovation our world needs can only be built on a foundation of good and quality education for all.
- Businesses shall be accountable for human rights harms and to cooperate internationally to fulfil human rights. We also need to think seriously about international laws and arbitration agreements which might end up protecting those that do most harm to the environment – and developing countries are especially vulnerable.

#### **CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

- We need scaled-up and systemic action on just transition globally. The scale of the problems and challenges necessitates cooperation and collaboration, and we can no longer be satisfied with uneven progress in select situations.
- We can empower people by integrating human rights, including the right to a healthy environment, in the development, content and implementation of environmental laws and policies at all levels.
- We can empower people to act for nature by financing and supporting their effective implementation through inclusive, transparent, equitable, and accountable processes.
- We also heard calls for increased policy coherence and taking an integrated and rights-based approach to environmental action and action on SDGs in general.
- Private sector has a key role to play – we need more thoughtful consideration and impact-driven integration of nature in corporate governance. Corporate boards have a responsibility to respect the natural systems on which their businesses, and our societies depend.