

UNESCO Statement at Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue 3

UNESCO welcomes the convening of the Stockholm+50 international summit as well as the opportunity given to provide a statement during the third Leadership Dialogue.

As UNESCO recognises the efforts and achievements of the United Nations system since the 1972 Conference, this Leadership Dialogue on “*Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*” reminds us of the urgency of our actions.

UNESCO wishes to express its full support to the key messages of this Leadership Dialogue and to reaffirm its commitment to the acceleration of knowledge and know-how preservation and access to all.

In this regard, the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science was adopted in November 2021 to define shared values and principles for Open Science, to bring all citizens around the world closer to science and to facilitate the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Moreover, relying on its unique and interdisciplinary mandate within the UN system, UNESCO is fully committed to preserve Nature as a source of knowledge, identity and inspiration. Ratified by 180 countries, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is the international community’s only binding intergovernmental instrument tasked with safeguarding living heritage and ensuring its transmission to future generations. The contribution of local and indigenous knowledge and know-how to sustainable development plays an essential role in the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of natural resources.

I also take this Leadership Dialogue as an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of multilateralism in a time of multiple-environmental crisis. Multilateral commitments are key to our success: to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequalities. We must join forces and scale up our efforts of the last years.

UNESCO is therefore fully committed to the coming UN Decades of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and for Ecosystem Restoration, which will be crucial in generating missing knowledge for restoration action and policy building.

UNESCO is one of the four UN institutional partners of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), along with FAO, UNDP and UNEP.

UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems – LINKS - program hosts the technical support unit of the IPBES Working Group on Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. It mobilizes the knowledge, know-how and practices of local communities and indigenous peoples to support their inclusion in environmental decision-making, particularly with regard to biodiversity and climate change. We aim at building dialogue among indigenous knowledge holders, natural and social scientists, resource managers and decision-makers to secure an active and equitable role for local communities in resource governance.

Finally, UNESCO is committed to fully support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity through effective conservation of biodiversity in its interconnected network of designated sites. Conserving biodiversity more and better is crucially important. However, we cannot focus on biodiversity in just a few protected places: protecting 30% of the planet will be futile if the remaining 70% is still being destroyed.

It is time to achieve 100% reconciliation between all humans and the living.

Thank you for your kind attention.