

Terms of reference for the Co-Chairs to facilitate consultations under UNEA resolution 5/5, entitled “Nature-based Solutions for Supporting Sustainable Development”

Introduction

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/5, entitled “Nature-based Solutions for Supporting Sustainable Development, requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), subject to the availability of resources, to convene intergovernmental consultations in a transparent, inclusive, regionally balanced manner, striving for gender balance, in order to undertake the following:

- a) Compile examples of best practice in nature-based solutions, based on the best available science;
- b) Assess existing and discuss potential new proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines to address divergences, with a view to achieving a common understanding among Member States for the implementation of nature-based solutions, including to support Member States in designing, implementing and evaluating nature-based solutions, building on existing work, initiatives and platforms, as appropriate, and without prejudice to existing efforts and initiatives of and new proposals from individual Member States;
- c) Identify options for supporting sustainable investment in nature-based solutions and share information on bilateral and multilateral sources of finance to enable developing countries to develop and deploy nature-based solutions;

As previously communicated (see letter from the Executive Director dated 7 July 2022, reference no UNE-2022-01413), it is proposed that the consultations are led by two Co-Chairs (one from a Developing Country and one from a Developed Country) nominated by Member States.

While the initial communication from the Secretariat indicated that the Executive Director would appoint the Co-Chairs, it is now foreseen that the appointment of the two Co-Chairs will be coordinated by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under the leadership of the President of the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly, taking into account the need for geographical balance and gender parity.

Interested Member States are thus invited to send nominations for potential Co-Chairs to the Secretariat (unep-sgb@un.org) no later than **15 September 2022**. To date, two submissions have already been received by the Secretariat.

Role

The two Co-Chairs, working together, will be expected to convene and lead the intergovernmental consultations, with the support of a dedicated team under the UNEP Secretariat working on Nature based Solutions (NbS), to:

- determine the most appropriate modality for the consultation process, with regards to whether these should be remote or in person, at global level only, or also at regional level;
- ensure the broadest possible ownership and participation by all interested Member States and Stakeholders in the consultations;
- Ensure the consultations successfully address the relevant tasks set out in the resolution and are completed within an agreed timeframe;
- Address any challenges and opportunities that may arise in the consultation process.

Selection criteria

Potential Co-Chairs should:

- Be nominated by a Member State;
- Possess a good knowledge and understanding of both technical and policy aspects of nature-based solutions;
- Have experience of exercising a leadership role in intergovernmental processes;
- Be available to support a year-long process;
- Engage bilaterally with other Member States both in Nairobi at UNEP Headquarters and in capitals;
- Be in a position to attend meetings in person within and outside Nairobi.

In selecting the Co-Chairs the CPR Bureau will:

- Strive for gender parity.
- Ensure appropriate geographic balance between the two Co-Chairs.