

31 OCT. 2022

Kingdom of Morocco

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Ministry of Energy Transition and
Sustainable Development

The Minister

Excellency,

I wish to refer to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022, entitled "Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development", in which the UNEA requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), subject to the availability of resources and to further support the implementation of nature-based solutions, as defined in the resolution, 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."

In this regard, I wish to recall that the Executive Director of UNEP, in a letter dated 7 July 2022, addressed to the Ministers of Environment, invited expressions of interest from Member States to Co-Chair the intergovernmental consultations. I wish to also recall that the Executive Director of UNEP, in a letter dated 31 August 2022, addressed to the Ministers of Environment, provided information on the process for the appointment of the Co-Chairs, namely, that the process will be coordinated by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under the leadership of the President of the sixth session of the UNEA, taking into account the need for geographical balance and gender parity as required by UNEA resolution 5/5.

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Further to the consultations led by the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, H. E. Mr. Pirkka Tapiola, Ambassador of Finland to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP, I have the pleasure to inform you that I have appointed H. E. Mrs. Giovanna Valverde Stark, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UNEP and UN-Habitat, and Ms. Sikeade Egbuwalo, Senior Forest Officer, Ministry of Environment of Nigeria, as Co-Chairs of the intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions.

I would like to thank Ambassador Pirkka Tapiola for coordinating the process. I would also like to thank and congratulate Ambassador Giovanna Stark and Ms. Sikeade Egbuwalo for having accepted this very important responsibility. I trust that you will extend your full support and cooperation to them throughout the process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Leila Benali
President of the United
Nations Environment Assembly

Ministre de la Transition Énergétique
et du Développement Durable

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