



Intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions

Note from the Co-Chairs

27th March 2023

Introduction

This note summarizes how the Co-Chairs intend to run the intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions in line with UNEA resolution 5/5 entitled “*Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development*”. The intergovernmental consultations are addressed in operative paragraphs 5 & 6 (OP 5 & 6) of resolution 5/5. We will run the consultations in the course of 2023, through a combination of virtual and in-person meetings. This will enable us to report on the outcomes of the consultations to UNEA 6. A full schedule of the consultations accompanies this Note.

The purpose of the intergovernmental consultations

The purpose of the consultations is set out in OP5: ‘..to further support the implementation of nature-based solutions, as defined in the present resolution..’. The resolution also sets out three specific tasks for the consultations, which are described in OP5 (a) – (c). The full text of these sub-paragraphs is important, but in summary these tasks are to:

- Compile examples of best practice in nature-based solutions;
- 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; and
- Identify options for supporting sustainable investment in nature-based solutions.

Some of the language in the three sub-paragraphs amplifies the purpose of the consultations. There are references to: ‘address divergences’, ‘achieving a common understanding’, ‘support Member States in designing, implementing and evaluating nature-based solutions’ and ‘enable developing countries to develop and deploy nature-based solutions’.

The Co-Chairs also note OP2 of the resolution, which

Recognizes that nature-based solutions may contribute significantly to climate action, while recognizing the need for analysis of their effects, including in the long term, and acknowledging that they do not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but can improve action for adaptation and resilience to and mitigation of climate change and its impact;

How the consultations will be run

The Co-Chairs will chair all the global and regional consultations with the exception of the second regional consultations which will be run concurrently, in-person in Nairobi (October 9th-10th, 2023). For those second regional consultations the Co-chairs will identify appropriate representatives from the regions to chair those meetings.

In OP5, UNEP is asked to convene the consultations ‘in a transparent, inclusive, regionally balanced manner, striving for gender balance’. Taking these points in order, this is how we intend to meet these requirements:

- **Transparent:** we will utilize several means to promote transparency, including:
 - Provide reasonable notice of the times, dates and modality of meetings, including the early circulation of agendas and any supporting documentation.
 - Provide a Co-Chairs summary of both the first global consultation meeting and first regional consultations as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the meetings.
 - Maintain a dedicated page on the UNEP website for the consultations with relevant information about the consultations.
 - Invite Member States, Major Groups and Stakeholders and other participants to make written submissions to the consultations in advance of the first global consultation, the first regional consultations and the in-person meeting in Nairobi. These submissions will be posted online on the dedicated page of the UNEP website.
- **Inclusive:** all Member States will be invited to participate in both the regional consultations (for their region) and the global consultations. Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to UNEP will be invited to participate in both the regional and global consultations. The participation of both developing countries and stakeholders will be supported. In addition, intergovernmental organizations invited to participate in the sessions of UNEA will also be invited (including the Rio Conventions). In addition, UNEP will consider inviting a small number of technical resource people to inform the consultations. With regard to the virtual meetings, UNEP will explore ways of supporting the participation of those who lack access to good internet connections.
- **Regionally balanced manner:** we have included two sets of regional meetings as part of the overall consultations, the first set of regional meetings being virtual, and the second set in person.
- **Striving for gender balance:** recognizing that Member States and stakeholders are entitled to choose their own representatives we encourage Member States and stakeholders to give full consideration to nominating women to participate in the consultations.