

Joint Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
20 December, 16:00 to 18:00 (GMT+3)
Online

Agenda item 5: Concept notes for the high-level dialogues of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

This note, entitled “*Concept notes for the high-level dialogues of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly*”, has been developed by the Secretariat for consideration under agenda item 5 of the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

The note outlines for the consideration and possible endorsement by the members of the UNEA and the CPR Bureaux:

1. draft concept notes on the two dialogues to be held under the item “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements”;
2. draft concept notes on the three leadership dialogues; and
3. draft concept note on the multistakeholder dialogue.

MEAs high-level dialogue one: Strengthening science policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments.

28 February 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

A. Introduction

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, will include a Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) day considered through an opening segment and two consecutive high-level dialogues related to the theme of UNEA-6 which reads “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

UNEA-5 through its decision 5/4 endorsed the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), which recognized the importance of strengthening the contributions and active participation of MEAs to UNEA to promote coherence between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies’ decisions.

This will be the first time an agenda item on cooperation of MEAs will be included on the agenda of UNEA. Many of the governing bodies of MEAs have adopted decisions that call for strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other international bodies including UNEP. It is therefore important that UNEA-6 considers reciprocating and complementing these decisions by providing concrete guidance to UNEP to promote action.

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for the high-level dialogue on **“Strengthening science policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments”**.

A core mandate of UNEP is to keep the world environment situation under review and strengthen the interface between science and policymaking across the sustainable development agenda.¹ Indeed, UNEP has played a significant role in enhancing the use of scientific evidence in decision-making relating to the environment. The scientific products UNEP has produced throughout its history have made the case for action clear and the focus is now increasingly on transforming the science into actionable tasks and deploying it with a renewed Science-Policy Interface.²

MEAs are examples of science-based policy at work. Not only have the MEAs been established in response to scientific evidence, but they also consider, and need continued access to, scientific and other information to support their processes and implementation at all levels. Effective science-policy interfaces are therefore critical to MEA operations and national implementation, and these rely on inputs from multiple sources

¹ UNEP MTS 2022-25

² United Nations Environment Programme (2021). Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future: A contribution to the dialogue on the Science-Policy Interface. Nairobi

including the products of science-policy platforms and panels, and other assessment processes. Some of these are mandated by MEAs, while others are independent.

UNEA and each MEA governing body have their own modalities to obtain, review and agree on the scientific and technical advice that they need to deliver on their mandates. However, given the integrated nature of the environmental issues being addressed, cooperation in seeking and using scientific and technical advice can be very valuable in a range of circumstances.

This MEAs high-level dialogue will be held on 28 February 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

B. Scope

The high-level dialogue is expected to contribute to strengthening collaboration amongst MEAs, UNEP, scientific panels and platforms for enhancing the use of scientific information in UNEA and MEAs decision making. It will support the effective implementation of environmental commitments as a response to the three environmental planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. In this context, consideration is given to needs and opportunities for UNEP and MEAs to work together to support strengthening of science-policy interfaces at the national level, and for working with science-policy platforms and panels to enhance their impact at the national level.

C. Participation, format and structure

The high-level dialogue will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The high-level dialogue will be interactive and held fully in person. The dialogue will be facilitated by a professional moderator. The participants will be provided with framing questions beforehand to guide the preparation of their interventions. The structure of the dialogue will be in the form of a panel discussion followed by reflections from the participants and follow-up questions to the panellists. After the opening remarks by UNEP, the moderator will welcome all participants to the session and deliver short introductory remarks explaining the modalities of participation. After the moderated panel discussion, the moderator will open the floor for an interactive discussion. Effort will be made to give priority in the order of speakers to those speaking at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of other stakeholders such as and Heads of MEAs Secretariats. Effort will also be made to ensure that participation in the session is interactive in nature and to ensure a balance between speakers from participating Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is opened for interventions. In order to provide for maximum participation, interventions made from the floor should be succinct, concise, and not exceed three minutes; and the time limit will be strictly implemented. After the interventions from the audience, the moderator will invite reflections from the panellists. The moderator will conclude the dialogue with brief closing remarks on main messages emanating from the discussions.

D. Guiding questions

[To be completed]

E. Expected outcomes and call for actions.

The dialogue will provide ideas and initiatives on how science can inform policy making and the role of UNEP, MEAs and institutions in supporting better environmental governance. The dialogue will also encourage Member States to consider options for ‘connecting the dots’ related to science policy interfaces across UNEP and MEAs, including enhancing dialogue and exchange between UNEP and MEAs on science policy issues. Specifically, the dialogue will contribute to identifying:

- ways in which UNEP and MEAs could be working together more effectively to enhance the ways in which science is used to inform decision making at all appropriate levels;
- needs and opportunities for UNEP and MEAs to work more closely with science-policy platforms and panels in supporting development and use of their outputs; and
- the potential role of UNEA in facilitating collaboration between and amongst UNEP, MEAs, science policy platforms and panels, and other agencies providing assessments.

A summary of the dialogue will be prepared by the secretariat and presented orally by the moderator at the closing plenary of the session and will be included in the final proceedings report of UNEA-6.

F. Contact details

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MEAs high-level dialogue two: Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation.

28 February 2024, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

A. Introduction

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, will include a Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) day considered through an opening segment and two consecutive high-level dialogues related to the theme of UNEA-6 which reads “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

Following UNEA decision 5/4 in which UNEA endorsed the outcome of the stocktaking meeting for the process for review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), which recognized the importance of strengthening the contributions and active participation of MEAs to UNEA to promote coherence between the UNEA resolutions and the MEAs governing bodies decisions’, it will be the first time an agenda item on cooperation with MEAs is included on the agenda of UNEA. Many of the governing bodies of MEAs have adopted decisions that call for strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other international bodies, including UNEP. It is therefore important that UNEA-6 consider reciprocating and complimenting these decisions by providing concrete guidance to UNEP to promote common action.

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for the high-level dialogue on “***Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation***”.

This MEAs high-level dialogue will be held on 28 February 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

B. Scope

The dialogue will provide an opportunity for participants to further elaborate on the challenges and opportunities in their work to enhance effective and integrated implementation of environmental commitments through strengthened cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and governing bodies and Secretariats of MEAs. It will also be an opportunity to discuss on practical ways that UNEA can support to strengthen means of implementation to achieve common objectives in tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, for example through mainstreaming these areas into the broader development agenda.

Reflecting the relevant objectives of MEAs in broader policy frameworks to ensure mutual supportiveness of action provide a key means to enhance cooperation at the national level. The environmental goals and targets of the SDGs are, accordingly, supportive of many of the objectives and obligations of the MEAs. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda is a framework of relevance to the implementation of the MEAs, and improved cooperation among entities at national level involved in the implementation of the MEAs can be an important contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. Furthermore, Goal 17 Target

14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

In addition to 2030 Agenda, there are numerous other frameworks which provide useful entry points for enhancing cooperation between Member States, UN entities and stakeholders at different levels. Among the most recent ones are the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Strengthening the objectives of the MEAs in in Country Cooperation Frameworks provides yet another avenue to integrating the environmental commitments in national development planning.

C. Participation, format and structure

The high-level dialogue will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in all the six official languages of the United Nations.

The high-level dialogue will be divided into two interactive parts that feature different speakers and will be held fully in person. The dialogue will be facilitated by a professional moderator. The panellists will be provided with framing questions beforehand to guide the preparation of their interventions. The structure of the interactive parts will be in form of two panel discussions followed by reflections from the participants and follow up questions to the Panellists. After the opening remarks by UNEP, the moderator will welcome all participants to the session and deliver short introductory remarks explaining the modalities of participation. For each moderated panel discussion, four panellists will give their reflections thereafter the moderator will open the floor for an interactive discussion. Efforts will be made to give priority in the order of speakers to those speaking at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of stakeholders such as Heads of MEAs Secretariats. Efforts will also be made to ensure that participation in the session is interactive in nature and to ensure a balance between speakers from participating Member States, Heads of MEAs Secretariats, international organizations, other observers and major groups and stakeholders. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is opened for interventions. In order to provide for maximum participation, interventions made from the floor should be succinct, concise and not exceed three minutes; and the time limit will be strictly implemented. After interventions from the audience, the moderator will invite reflections from the panellists.

D. Guiding questions

[To be completed]

E. Expected outcomes and call for actions

The dialogue is expected to facilitate elaboration on the type of action governments could take for effective implementation through strengthened cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and the MEAs to address the environmental challenges, including by effective utilization of means of implementation. The dialogue will result in a summary that will be reflected in the proceedings of UNEA 6.

Participants will also be invited to call for new action, and/or to announce existing initiatives by their respective governments or organizations aimed at advancing effective, inclusive and sustainable

implementation of multilateral objectives at national level to address the three planetary environmental crises.

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Leadership dialogue one: Science, data, and digitalisation

Date: 29 February 2024, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

A. Introduction

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, will include three leadership dialogues focusing on the UNEA-6 theme of “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

The three leadership dialogues are an official element of UNEA-6 and will be held in Conference Room 1 on 29 February and 1 March 2024, as follows:

- Thursday, 29 February, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., focusing on science, data and digitalization..
- Friday, 1 March, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., focusing on finance.
- Friday, 1 March, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., focusing on the future of environmental multilateralism..

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for the leadership dialogue one, focusing on science, data and digitization. The very recent past has recorded notable successful commitments in environmental multilateralism around the three planetary environmental crises. On the nature front, the globe [adopted](#) the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the close of 2022, which sets out to protect biodiversity, ensure sustainable use, and promote fair and equitable benefit sharing, among key aspects. On pollution, the first-ever international legally binding instrument is being negotiated; the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm COPs held earlier this year resulted in the [adoption](#) of a compliance mechanism after 15 years of negotiations, and there are discussions for the creation of a Science Policy Panel on the sound management of chemicals and prevention of pollution and waste (link) to be developed by the end of 2024. On the climate front, [COP27](#), held at the close of 2022, concluded with a landmark deal towards addressing the irreversible loss and damage suffered by the most vulnerable of communities to the devastation of climate change – popularly called “loss and damage (L&D)”. Despite an impressive streak of commitments over the past few years, implementation has not kept pace. For example, despite the world [adopting](#) the global biodiversity framework in 1992, the [current rate](#) of species extinction is at historic levels and is accelerating, with most biodiversity targets [unattained](#). On pollution, chemical pollution has increased, despite the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm commitments. On climate change, global emissions trends [continue](#) towards unsafe warming levels of 2.5°C – 2.9°C despite the 1.5°C targets set in the Paris Agreement.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for transition in two critical paradigms towards bridging implementation gaps. First, [over 50%](#) of global GDP is derived from nature. For implementation, there is an urgent need to divest from considering the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) from their environmental silos and instead premise them as enablers and complementors of much-needed socioeconomic progress and investment. Second, there is a need to divest from fragmentation towards coherent, networked multilateral efforts in addressing the three planetary environmental crises, considering the interconnectedness between nature, biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change. For example, mitigating climate change and reducing pollution address two of the most serious threats to biodiversity.

Implementation of MEAs, therefore, needs to prioritise creating synergy in implementation investments because progress in one domain complements another.

Scientific facts, data analytics, and digital tools will underpin the pace of this transition in environmental multilateralism. For example, the success achieved with data and monitoring systems that target climate-induced risks, such as the Early Warning for All (EW4ALL), needs to be tapped to complement and synergise a new dimension of Early Warning for the Environment, covering nature and pollution. Also, early warning systems that cover different types of hazards and risks already exist. The EW4All [initiative](#) of the UN Secretary-General targets to [achieve](#) 100% coverage of the earth's population with [early](#) warning systems by 2027, with a focus on climatological risks. These systems have been shown to provide more than a tenfold return on investment. Just 24 hours warning of an incoming storm or heatwave can cut the ensuing damage by 30%. Spending \$800 million on such systems is projected can avoid an estimated \$3–\$16 billion in annual losses, especially in developing countries. These are ready, proven systems that now need to be adopted and adapted in a targeted, integrated manner to minimise hazards and risks arising from nature/biodiversity loss and pollution and the cascading effects of the three planetary environmental crises, and these risks match solutions and investments. This is the essence of Early Warning for Environment (EWE).

In building such synergy, while the science presents the facts on the three planetary environmental crises, we will need more data science and big-data analytics, and techniques such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, and digital twinning to implement simulations of diverse variables covering social, economic, investment, and environmental parameters, to assist in informing policy interventions, incentives and investment planning towards prioritising implementation of nature/biodiversity, climate, and pollution actions, and realisation of MEAs in an integrated manner, and as strategic to accelerate economic progress. These tools will also support more responsive needs as the environment changes. The universality of digital tools needs to be tapped to expand coverage of data and analytics through strategies like citizen science to capture diverse variables covering environment, social, investment, and economic parameters. In this way, building more robust data sets for making valid deductions. The science, e.g., through peer-reviewed reports like the IPCC, GEO, etc., set the stage on the global scale of trends in environmental changes as relates to the three planetary environmental crises, and these provide the basis for targeted monitoring actions that are needed to inform impactful responses. This connectedness also needs to be strengthened on the solutions and socioeconomic lens to catalyse investments and incentives needed for action.

B. Scope and interlinkage

This leadership dialogue is aimed to throw a spotlight on science, data, and digitalisation as critical enablers to help bridge gaps between earth systems and inclusive socioeconomic development, as well as in addressing fragmentation in multilateralism towards networked, synergistic investments for effective implementation of the three planetary environmental crises.

The dialogue interlinks with the other two dialogues, given the central role of environmental governance in achieving synergy and coherence in multilateral efforts and finance in unlocking the investment potential of actions in addressing the three planetary environmental crises.

C. Participation and format

The leadership dialogue will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The dialogue will be fully in-person and interactive, enabling comment and discussion. There will be no pre-established list of speakers. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is opened for interventions. The dialogue will be facilitated by a professional moderator to allow for an interactive discussion among the participants. Participants will be provided with framing questions beforehand to guide the preparation of their interventions. The moderator may choose to ask follow-up questions to the speakers.

The structure of the dialogue will be as follows: the moderator will welcome all participants to the dialogue and deliver short opening remarks explaining the modalities of participation. Then the moderator will invite two keynote speakers to set the scene with introductory remarks of 5-minute each (10 minutes total). The moderator will then open the floor for an interactive discussion for a period of 70 minutes in total. Effort will be made to give priority in the order of speakers to those speaking at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of other stakeholders. Effort will also be made to ensure that participation in the leadership dialogue is interactive in nature and to ensure a balance between speakers from participating Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders. It is envisaged that up to 15-Member States, 3 intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and other United Nations system entities and 3 major groups and stakeholders would be accommodated to speak during the interactive discussion. In order to provide for maximum participation, interventions will be made from the floor; should be succinct, concise and not exceed two minutes; and the time limit will be strictly implemented. The moderator will conclude the dialogue with a short closing remarks.

D. Guiding questions

[To be completed]

E. Expected outcomes and call for actions.

Participants are expected to call for the enhanced application of science, data, and digital tools for networked multilateralism and bridging of gaps between earth systems (which is nature and the services it provides in driving socioeconomic development and the changes it undergoes in the process), and socioeconomic development and investment that is dependent on nature, towards effective, inclusive, implementation of multilateral agreements tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

A summary of each dialogue will be prepared by the secretariat and presented orally by the moderator at the closing plenary of the session and will be included in the UNEA-6 final report.

F. Contact details

For inquiries and additional information, please contact [Kelly West: Kelly.West@un.org](mailto:Kelly.West@un.org) and [Richard Munang \(richard.munang@un.org\)](mailto:richard.munang@un.org), Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP.

Leadership dialogue two: Finance

Date: Friday, 1 March 10:00 to 11.30 a.m.

A. Introduction

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, will include three leadership dialogues focusing on the UNEA-6 theme of “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

The three leadership dialogues are an official element of UNEA-6 and will be held in Conference Room 1 on 29 February and 1 March 2024 as follows:

- Thursday, 29 February, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. focusing on science, data and digitalization
- Friday, 1 March, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. focusing on finance
- Friday, 1 March, from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. focusing on the future of environmental multilateralism

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for leadership dialogue two focusing on finance.

B. Scope and interlinkage

The financing gap to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is estimated to reach USD 4.3 trillion per year in the 2020-2025 period. How global public and private finance is allocated during this decade will determine whether threats to human prosperity are mitigated or amplified. Additional mechanisms are needed to ensure more than USD480 trillion in global financial assets³ contribute to aligning economies with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), the Global Framework on Chemicals and the forthcoming international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

Aligning financial flows from all sources with the goals of the Paris Agreement and GBF has been defined as an objective in each of these instruments, signalling the need to make public and private financial flows consistent with their objectives. The Global Framework on Chemicals also refers to this imperative. Alignment of financial flows is currently under negotiation for the international plastics treaty.

A systematic approach to align public and private financial flows with a pathway towards human-centered sustainable development would create millions of green jobs, enhance GDP of the poor, unlock trillions of dollars and recalibrate investments for climate, nature and pollution action across scales. Conducive macroeconomic, fiscal and regulatory frameworks are needed to accelerate flows of public and private finance towards achieving the SDGs. A reset of the rules governing financial and economic systems is needed to promote stability with sustainability.

In order to massively scale up private finance, Ministries of Finance, multilateral development banks (MDBs) and development finance institutions need to make greater use of fiscal, regulatory and legal instruments and blended finance solutions. From their position at the center of government they coordinate economic strategy and fiscal policy, regulate the financial system, and collectively control, either directly or indirectly, well over US\$30 trillion in government procurement and expenditure, over one-third of global GDP.⁴ They are shareholders in state-owned enterprises, development banks, and the multilateral system.

³ [Global Monitoring Report on Non-Bank Financial Intermediation 2022 - Financial Stability Board \(fsb.org\)](https://www.fsb.org/2022/08/global-monitoring-report-on-non-bank-financial-intermediation-2022/)

⁴ Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action. 2022. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MINISTRIES OF FINANCE IN DRIVING CLIMATE ACTION: FRAMEWORK AND GUIDE, Washington, D.C. © Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action.

While public finance may be deployed to incentivize high-impact investments and to crowd-in private sector finance, global and domestic capital markets are likely to be the primary source of capital for scaling up climate and sustainability action over time.⁵ Private finance contributed roughly 50% of almost USD1.3 trillion in climate finance in 2021/22.⁶ The IMF’s Global Financial Stability Report in October 2023 estimated that the private sector will need to cover about 80-90 per cent of climate mitigation investment needs in emerging market and developing economies,⁷ where international private finance for climate action needs to increase by more than 15 times current levels to deliver on climate mitigation goals.⁸

To accelerate alignment, it is crucial that policy and regulatory frameworks define where financial flows need to be directed or redirected. Governments can do this through measures including clear targets in finance and economic policy frameworks, and taxonomies to identify sustainable economic activities. Ministries of Finance are well-positioned to encourage private financial institutions to set credible targets and to take effective steps towards their implementation. As part of broader government action, Ministries of Finance can help to create an enabling environment to encourage commitment to targets for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, support the implementation of those targets, and establish tools to help determine the credibility of commitments (e.g., taxonomies). They can promote this enabling environment by engaging with the private sector and civil society to identify barriers to implementing net zero targets, establishing relevant financial regulatory frameworks and disclosure requirements to ensure availability and quality of harmonised and decision-useful data, enforcing standards, and providing expertise and funding to build capacity. They can coordinate with other government agencies to provide regulatory coherence and ensure a comprehensive and whole-government approach that incentivizes and accelerates an inclusive and just transition across all economic activities.

For sustainable finance regulation to play its part in directing financing flows towards sustainable impacts in the long term, policy and regulatory frameworks need to consistently embed sustainability objectives across sectors. Countries are starting to take a whole-of-government approach to integrate climate and nature-related objectives into policies and regulations across sectors, including finance. They are providing the fiscal policy and regulatory environments to align private finance (investments, banking and insurance) with sustainability goals, while providing the policy and regulatory frameworks to transition to business models that support the shift towards low-emission, nature-positive and resilient pathways. Policy tools such as subsidies and incentives can be designed to ensure solutions to achieve goals are financially viable and competitive vis-à-vis business-as-usual scenario. However countries are at different stages of maturity in creating the enabling conditions to align public and private finance with goals included in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, with the risk of market fragmentation increasing the complexity of scaling up flows of sustainable finance across jurisdictions.

⁵ [Technical dialogue of the first global stocktake. Synthesis report by the co-facilitators of the technical dialogue \(unfccc.int\)](https://unfccc.int/technical-dialogue-of-the-first-global-stocktake-synthesis-report-by-the-co-facilitators-of-the-technical-dialogue)

⁶ climatepolicyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Global-Landscape-of-Climate-Finance-2023.pdf

⁷ imf.org/en/Publications/GFSR/Issues/2023/10/10/global-financial-stability-report-october-2023

⁸ https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/A-Climate-Finance-Framework_IHLEG-Report-2-SUMMARY.pdf

At least 30 taxonomies and 200 frameworks, standards and guidelines on sustainability reporting and climate-related disclosures are now in place across 40 countries, and green/sustainable budgeting approaches are integrating development and environmental considerations in national socio-economic planning and underpin a shift towards sustainable consumption and production. By setting out clear and transparent criteria for sustainable economic activities, such fiscal and regulatory frameworks can enable the development of a reliable and credible market for allocating capital towards science-based sectoral transition pathways and help companies become more environmentally sustainable.³⁷

UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy states that shifting public and private finance and business practices towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production – and towards reducing climate impacts, biodiversity loss and pollution – is crucial to realizing the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.⁹ UNEP engages financial and economic actors to accelerate a just transition to a sustainable economy. Voluntary initiatives such as the UN-convened Principles for Responsible Banking, Principles for Sustainable Insurance and Net-Zero financial alliances provide the frameworks for the UN and global financial sector to foster the knowledge and tools for the industry to contribute to achieving global climate, nature, social and wider sustainability goals. Private sector leadership can advance regulatory initiatives to create a level playing field, provide clarity of direction and support harmonisation and interoperability of sustainable finance regulation across jurisdictions.

Ministries of Finance and Environment can access support through coalitions and partnerships such as the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), the Green Fiscal Policy Network (GFPPN), Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership, and UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), among others, for technical assistance, knowledge exchange and capacity building on aligning public and private finance with integrated development and environmental priorities.

The Executive Director's report to UNEA 6¹⁰ highlights the urgency of aligning public and private finance to accelerate the scale and pace of the economic transformation needed to implement MEAs to address climate change, ecosystem degradation and pollution in line with the SDGs. Aligning the financial system with sustainability objectives is one of six areas identified by the UNEP Secretariat where the Assembly may wish to compel more effective and inclusive national and multilateral action. The report states that Member States may wish to strengthen national fiscal policy and regulatory measures in economic and financial systems to mainstream nature in private sector decision-making and align public and private finance with national plans and strategies to implement the KM-GBF and 1.5° pathways.

Integrating sustainability factors into finance and economic systems will be essential to achieve all sustainability goals. In preparation for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024, the UN Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 6 proposes reforms of the International Financial Architecture (IFA) – governance arrangements that safeguard the stability and function of the global monetary and financial system – to support implementation of the SDGs.¹¹ To enhance the sustainability impact of public finance and the

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https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/42683/medium_term_strategy_2022.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

¹⁰ [UNEA-6 Documents | Environment Assembly \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/nea6/documents/environment-assembly)

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs>

financial sector, proposed actions include an integrated approach to development and environment in public finance design, updating market regulations, recalibrating price incentives and repurposing environmentally harmful subsidies, standards and practices to place the SDGs at the heart of the operation of economies and markets.

This Leadership Dialogue will focus on how countries can better align financial and economic systems with socially inclusive sustainable development objectives. The discussion will focus on accelerating real economy and sector-focused policies and regulations, including the roll out of sustainable budgeting, taxonomies and corporate disclosure frameworks, with a growing focus on harmonization and interoperability across reporting and sustainable finance policy tools, as well as strengthened financial policy and regulation.

Participants are invited to reflect on how Member States can draw on science, data, digital solutions and governance frameworks to strengthen the institutions that guide and shape market behaviour and promote coherent and integrated approaches to addressing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, and mainstream aspects of sustainable finance and green macroeconomics into sectoral, institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks.

C. Participation and format

The leadership dialogue will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The dialogue will be interactive and held fully in person. There will be no pre-established list of speakers. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is opened for interventions. The dialogue will be facilitated by a professional moderator to allow for an interactive discussion among the participants. The participants will be provided with framing questions beforehand to guide the preparation of their interventions. If time allows, the moderator may choose to ask follow-up questions to the speakers.

The structure of the dialogue will be as follows: the moderator will welcome all participants to the dialogue and deliver short opening remarks explaining the modalities of participation. Then the moderator will invite two keynote speakers to set the scene with introductory remarks of 5-minute each (10 minutes total). The moderator will then open the floor for an interactive discussion for a period of 70 minutes in total. Effort will be made to give priority in the order of speakers to those speaking at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of other stakeholders. Effort will also be made to ensure that participation in the leadership dialogue is interactive in nature and to ensure a balance between speakers from participating Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders. It is envisaged that up to 15-Member States, 3 intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and other United Nations system entities and 3 major groups and stakeholders would be accommodated to speak during the interactive discussion. In order to provide for maximum participation, interventions will be made from the floor; should be succinct, concise and not exceed two minutes; and the time limit will be strictly implemented. The moderator will conclude the dialogue with a short closing remarks.

D. Guiding questions

[To be completed]

E. Expected outcomes and call for actions

The leadership dialogue is expected to identify:

1. Good practice for countries to accelerate alignment of public and private finance with pathways for a just and green transition to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, SDGs and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), as well as the Global Framework on Chemicals and forthcoming international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.
2. Lessons learned and areas for strengthening countries' implementation of ambitious, effective, coherent and science-based policy and regulatory frameworks to foster a just transition to align finance, economic development and markets with the climate, nature, pollution goals of MEAs.
3. Recommendations for processes working towards integrating sustainable development factors into finance and economic policy and regulatory frameworks to create prosperity for all on a healthy planet.

Participants will also be invited to call for new action, and/or to announce existing initiatives by their respective Governments or organizations aimed at advancing effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to address the three planetary environmental crises.

A summary of each dialogue will be prepared by the secretariat and presented orally by the moderator at the closing plenary of the session and will be included in the UNEA-6 final report.

F. Contact details

For inquiries and additional information, please contact:

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Leadership dialogue three: The future of environmental multilateralism

Date Friday, 1 March, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A. Introduction

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024, will include three leadership dialogues focusing on the UNEA-6 theme of “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”.

The three leadership dialogues are an official element of UNEA-6 and will be held in Conference Room 1 on 29 February and 1 March 2024, as follows:

- Thursday, 29 February, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., focusing on science, data and digitalization.
- Friday, 1 March, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., focusing on finance.
- Friday, 1 March, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., focusing on the future of environmental multilateralism.

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for the Leadership Dialogue Three, focusing on the state of environmental multilateralism. The purpose of this leadership dialogue is to investigate why environmental multilateralism isn’t comprehensively achieving the goals set by the international community, and how it can be made more effective. Building on the Secretary-General’s report “Our Common Agenda”, and in the preparations for the Summit of the Future, Member States have an opportunity to look to the future and craft an environmental multilateralism that helps Member States deliver on their goals and commitments. The Dialogue will explore ideas, innovations, and proposed solutions, including the recommendations of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Effective Multilateralism, which published its report in 2023, entitled ‘A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future’.

Despite ongoing global peace, security and other tensions and geopolitical divisions, in the environmental arena Member States continue to seek ways to advance multilateral solutions to shared global environmental challenges. In 2023 alone, the Global Framework on Chemicals was agreed upon, the Montreal Protocol’s Multilateral Fund received its largest ever replenishment, and countries are making steady progress towards adopting a new international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. These positive developments are not limited to multilateral environmental instruments alone. In June 2022 the General Assembly recognized the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right.

These developments demonstrate that environmental multilateralism is still very much alive. But is it working? Despite a rich and growing tapestry of multilateral environmental agreements, environmental institutions, norms, and other initiatives and instruments, the three planetary environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste continue. Environmental multilateralism isn’t, therefore, comprehensively achieving the environmental objectives and goals set by Member States.

There are a multitude of factors that may be contributing to this. At the national level these may include diverse political agendas and interests, capacity, finance and resource constraints, deficient national laws

and governance systems, and ineffective policy coherence, enforcement, among others. At the international level, it may be time to reimagine and recalibrate how institutions, platforms, multilateral environmental instruments and other initiatives are designed and implemented, including exploring more networked and inclusive governance models, utilizing digital tools and technologies for enhanced monitoring and compliance, and opportunities to strengthen coherence amongst different instruments and bodies.

B. Scope and interlinkage

This leadership dialogue is expected to provide important contributions from UNEA-6 to the Summit of the Future and other ongoing multilateral processes relevant to the three planetary environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. It will support and strengthen the ongoing efforts for achievement of the environment related targets of the SDG's. The dialogue also links to the other two leadership dialogues on science and finance, given the centrality of these two topics in effective environmental multilateralism. It also links, as appropriate, to the Leadership Dialogues organized on the MEAs Day with an expanded scope to multilateralism.

C. Participation and format

The leadership dialogue will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The dialogue will be interactive and held fully in person. There will be no pre-established list of speakers. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is open for interventions. The dialogue will be facilitated by a professional moderator to allow for an interactive discussion among the participants. Framing questions will be provided beforehand to guide the preparation of interventions. If time allows, the moderator may ask follow-up questions to the speakers.

The structure of the dialogue will be as follows: the moderator will welcome all participants to the dialogue and deliver short opening remarks explaining the modalities of participation. Then, the moderator will invite two keynote speakers to set the scene with introductory remarks of 5 minutes each (10 minutes total). The moderator will then open the floor for an interactive discussion for a total of 70 minutes.

In determining the order of speakers, priority will be given to speakers at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of other stakeholders. Steps will be taken to ensure that participation in the leadership dialogue is interactive and balanced between speakers from participating Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders. It is envisaged that up to 15 Member States, 3 intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, and other United Nations system entities, along with 3 major groups and stakeholders would be accommodated to speak during the interactive discussion. To ensure maximum participation, interventions should be made from the floor, be succinct and concise, not exceeding two minutes, adhere strictly to the time limit. The moderator will conclude the dialogue with short closing remarks.

D. Guiding questions

[To be completed]

E. Expected outcomes and call for actions

The leadership dialogue is expected to identify key innovations, initiatives, and ideas that could advance making environmental multilateralism more effective, inclusive, and sustainable. Its final conclusions will also be bolstered by those of the previous two leadership dialogues on science/data and on finance, as well as the high-level dialogues with Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Participants will also be invited to call for new actions, and/or announce existing initiatives by their respective Governments or organizations aimed at advancing effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to address the three planetary environmental crises.

A summary of each dialogue will be prepared by the secretariat and presented orally by the moderator at the closing plenary of the session and will be included in the UNEA-6 final report.

F. Contact details

For inquiries and additional information, please contact Andrew Raine (andrew.raine@un.org), Head of the Frontiers in Environmental Law Unit, Law Division, UNEP.

Multistakeholder dialogue: Inclusive multilateralism fit for timely and at scale delivery on climate, biodiversity loss and pollution: the central role of Major Groups and Stakeholders

Date: 28 February 2024, 4:30 – 6:00 PM

A. Introduction

Following the practice of previous United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) sessions and in accordance with the UNEA rules of procedure, a multistakeholder dialogue will be held on 29 February 2024 in Conference Room 1 as part of the high-level segment of UNEA-6. The event will provide an opportunity for an interactive high-level dialogue between representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders, Member States and international organizations. This concept note is intended to assist participants in preparing for the dialogue.

Despite significant progress made in the past decades, many challenges remain to realize the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and the fulfilment of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The purpose of this multistakeholder dialogue is to identify concrete solutions and inspire action to address the three planetary environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution through inclusive participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders in decision-making at all levels.

The proposed focus of the dialogue, under the overall theme of UNEA-6 (“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”), is as follows:

Inclusive multilateralism fit for timely and at scale delivery on climate, biodiversity loss and pollution: the central role of Major Groups and Stakeholders.

The objective of the multi-stakeholder dialogue is to foster a comprehensive discussion on achieving effective multilateralism in addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This dialogue will explore synergies between these global environment emergency issues, technology, and artificial intelligence (AI), aiming to identify actionable strategies for sustainable solutions.

B. Participation and format

Two moderators have been proposed to facilitate the dialogue, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered. Nominated moderators from Major Groups and Stakeholders: Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui, Regional Facilitator, Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa and Ms. Andrea Nakova, Project Coordinator, Journalists for Human Rights.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The moderators will provide a short introduction and outline a brief overview of the purpose, objectives and expected outcomes of the dialogue.

2. Setting the Stage: “Fireside Chat”

The moderators will invite the UNEA President (TBC), the UNEP Executive Director (TBC) and one of the two Co-chairs of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee to set the stage for the dialogue through short introductory interventions facilitated by the moderators. The focus of their interventions will provide a general context on the challenges and opportunities the world faces relating to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, with a focus on interlinkages and implications on global sustainability.

3. Panel Discussion: The role of Major Groups and Stakeholders in addressing global environment challenges

The moderators will lead a panel discussion with two interventions each from five diverse panelists representing five different Major Groups, to share insights and proposals relating to the importance of multistakeholder participation in shaping and implementing policy action to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and explore potential synergies and collaborative approaches with other partners.

4. Online quiz

If time permits, the moderators will organize a quick online “Kahoot” quiz with the audience, to stimulate debate and an interactive dialogue.

5. Interactive Debate with the audience

The moderators will open the floor to invite participants in the audience, including representatives from Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholders, to reflect on the messages shared during the fireside chat and the panel discussion. If possible, the moderators may use online platforms such as the “mentimeter” or equivalent to interact with the panel and the audience.

6. Closing remarks

The Co-chair of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee will provide short closing remarks.

C. Guiding questions

[To be completed]

D. Expected outcomes and call for actions

The dialogue will aim to identify best practices and identify concrete proposals for ensuring meaningful and effective participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders in UNEA and UNEP processes contributing to global efforts for a sustainable and resilient future. A summary of the dialogue will be presented orally by one of the moderators at the closing plenary of the Environment Assembly and will be reflected in the UNEA-6 final report.

E. Contact details

For inquiries and additional information, please contact David Ombisi: david.ombisi@un.org.
