



**“Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”**  
UNEA-6 theme.

## Leadership Dialogue three

### Alive and kicking: Environmental multilateralism is a beacon of hope but is it delivering fast enough?

**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 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, 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. They are:

1. **Leadership Dialogue one: Super-highway or still in slow-motion: Are science, data and digitalization really speeding our transition to a sustainable future?** Thursday, 29 February, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
2. **Leadership Dialogue two: Show me the money: Can the global financial system really tackle climate change, nature loss and pollution?** Friday, 01 March, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
3. **Leadership Dialogue three: Alive and kicking: Environmental multilateralism is a beacon of hope but is it delivering fast enough?** Friday, 01 March, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for leadership dialogue three. Building on the UN Secretary-General’s report [“Our Common Agenda”](#), and in the preparations for the Summit of the Future, the dialogue will be an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to look to the future and inform 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’](#).

The dialogue is organized against a backdrop of recent environmental multilateral wins that are advancing solutions to shared global environmental challenges. For instance, 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. The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) endorsed in 2022 is yet another win for multilateralism. These positive developments are not limited to multilateral environmental instruments alone. In July 2022 the General Assembly recognized the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right.

While these developments demonstrate that environmental multilateralism is still very much alive, the big question is whether it is working. It is clear that 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. The leadership dialogue will investigate why the goals set by the international community are not being comprehensively achieved, and how environmental multilateralism can be made more effective in helping to achieve this.

## **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 tackling the three planetary environmental crises. 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 [Multilateral Environmental Agreements \(MEAs\) 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 are provided here 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**

Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders will be invited to address the following guiding questions to facilitate an interactive dialogue:

1. Our growing tapestry of multilateral environmental agreements and other instruments shows that the world is good at making commitments but are we any good at keeping them? Are we living up to our promises?
2. How can environmental multilateralism be more effective and deliver at the speed the world desperately needs?

#### **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 Andy Raine ([andrew.raine@un.org](mailto:andrew.raine@un.org)), Head of the Frontiers in Environmental Law Unit, Law Division, UNEP.