

Summary of multi-stakeholder dialogue
Partnering for the Environment: Inclusive Multilateralism Fit for Purpose
held on Thursday, 29 February 2024

This multistakeholder dialogue under the sub-theme “Partnering for the Environment: Inclusive Multilateralism Fit for Purpose”, brought together representatives from Major Groups and Stakeholders, Member States, the United Nations system and international organizations to explore concrete solutions for inspiring transformative action.

H.E. Leila Benali, President of UNEA-6, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, set the stage for the dialogue through brief introductory interventions in the form of a “Fireside chat”. The UNEA-6 President noted that it is time to stop lecturing and start listening, where all voices are heard and valued. She highlighted the need for “do” tanks and “think” tanks among major groups and stakeholders. She underscored the efforts to foster synergies among MEAs for enhanced collaboration and coherence between MEA governing bodies, UNEP and UNEA. The Executive Director highlighted the “must do” list recognizing the urgent actions needed to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. She added that governments need step up their commitments to deliver.

The panel discussion that followed consisting of representatives of major groups and stakeholders highlighted the need to provide avenues for active participation, such as direct involvement in decision-making as major groups and stakeholders are not just participants but also right-holders.

The role of innovative partnerships and collaboration is crucial in order to leverage the expertise of diverse stakeholders. There is a need to find new ways of collaborating and fostering innovative partnerships that transcend traditional boundaries.

Provision of adequate financing was echoed by many of the participants. Whether it's mobilizing resources for adaptation or investing in green technologies, financial commitments are crucial for implementing environmental solutions.

The participants emphasized the need for support systems to empower women. They also called for the incorporation of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge. They underscored the fact that each major group has different strengths and can contribute differently towards environmental action.

Representatives of Member States stressed that governments cannot and should not bear the burden of environmental challenges alone. They gave examples of engagements with major groups and stakeholders, such as inclusion on delegations and consultation ahead of negotiations. The importance of access to important information by major groups and stakeholders was also highlighted.

Other participants at the dialogue observed that personal action can have a massive impact and that everyone has the power to make sustainable choices in their daily lives, contributing to the greater environmental cause. They noted that it is not just about policies, but rather it is about prioritizing environmental action in every decision that everyone makes.

The dialogue concluded by acknowledging the complexity of the current environmental challenges but with strong recommendations for a united commitment towards environmental stewardship.