

## UNEA 6

### Summary of MEA High-Level Dialogues 1 and 2

#### Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Wednesday, 28 February 2023

#### Report to the plenary

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[Excellencies, Distinguished participants,](#)

I thank Her Excellency Leila Benali, President of UNEA-6 and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco and Ms. Inger Andersen, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP for the opportunity to present to the UN Environmental Assembly the key messages which resounded within the walls of Conference Room One. With large high-level participation of Member States and representatives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the two rich dialogues were guided by questions to prompt active conversations.

1. The first dialogue focused on [“Strengthening Science Policy Interfaces for effective Implementation of Environmental Commitments”](#).

They key messages from the Dialogue 1 include the following:

- i) Increased cooperation amongst MEAs, UNEP and science-policy panels and platforms is essential. This is imperative to pave the way for integrated approaches and strengthened decision-making to address environmental challenges at large.

- ii) Science is evolving rapidly, as evidenced by assessments and reports, and securing political visibility and coherence of messaging remains a challenge. Ensuring science-policy-society links are iterative and continue to evolve with changing socio-political, economic, and environmental changes.
- iii) It is critical that the timing and outreach of outcomes of the scientific work transmitted to policymakers are responsive to the needs of countries. The communication on scientific outcomes should be tailored to the different target groups to ensure effective uptake.
- iv) For national action to be effective, scientific information serving various processes need to be connected. Opportunities for better exchange of outcomes, implementation experiences, and impacts, are sometimes beyond the mandates of individual panels and MEAs. However, more coordination is needed on that front.
- v) National political structures, election cycles, and political periods may affect the timing and political will to uptake of scientific knowledge and information.
- vi) The role of traditional knowledge and science is key to strengthening science policy interfaces at local and national levels.

2. The second dialogue focused on [Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation.](#)

They key messages from the Dialogue 2 include the following:

- i. UNEA, with its universal membership, and UNEP have a unique convening role of joining efforts towards coherent support for Member States to achieve the common objectives on climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- ii. Strengthening cooperation and coordination among the MEAs as well as between UNEP and the MEAs accelerates implementation at national level. Coordination between MEA national focal points and other relevant authorities is needed to address the environmental challenges coherently at the national level where the implementation of the environmental commitments takes place.
- iii. UNEA and UNEP have the opportunity to take a leadership role to support coherent and effective implementation of MEAs at the national level and facilitate the diverse use of means of implementation to foster implementation.
- iv. New sources of financing and innovative funding mechanisms are required as the foundation for skyrocketing implementation. The collaboration between UNEP, multilateral

development banks and international financial institutions is key.

- v. Incentivizing central banks and private sector in addition to traditional international funding sources is crucial.
- vi. Innovative solutions and thinking out of the box are must-haves to support further development of means of implementation at all levels, especially towards civil society stakeholders.

[Excellencies, distinguished participants,](#)

In conclusion, the dialogues called on us all to be bold, to think out of box and to step up on environmental action at all levels. By uniting forces we are stronger. Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and the MEAs is a key, guiding us towards the future we want for the next generations.

[Thank you, Madame President.](#)