



North America Office



United Nations
Environment Programme

Towards a Pollution-Free Planet

North American Multi-stakeholder Consultation in advance of the
United Nations Environment Assembly

Thursday, October 26, 2017
Lieutenant Governor's Suite, Toronto, ON

- 08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:15 **Welcoming Remarks**
- Blessing by Indigenous Elder
 - Barbara Hendrie, Regional Director, UN Environment North America Office (*Event Chair*)
- 09:15 – 09:30 **Special Address**
- Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- 09:30 – 11:00 **The Economics of Pollution: Opportunities for Change**
Moderator: Christian Ledwell, Media and Communications Officer, IISD
- Leonardo Trasande, Director, Section of Environmental Pediatrics, NYU School of Medicine
 - Karti Sandilya, Senior Adviser, Pure Earth and Global Alliance on Health and Pollution
 - Laura Zizzo, CEO of Zizzo Strategy, and Board Member of the Clean Air Partnership
 - Tom Rand, Senior Advisor, Cleantech; Managing Partner, ArcTern Ventures (TBC)
- Discussion followed by Q & A*
- 11:00– 11:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 – 1:00 **Towards Pollution Free Cities and Beyond**
Moderator: Michelle Wyman, Executive Director, National Council for Science & the Environment
- Ronald Macfarlane, Manager, Healthy Public Policy, Toronto Public Health
 - Miriam Diamond, Professor, University of Toronto
 - Megan Meaney, Director, ICLEI
 - Robert Kerr, Community Energy Planner (TBC)
- Discussion followed by Q & A*
- 1:00 – 2:00 **Lunch**
- 2:00 – 3:15 **North American Stakeholder Perspectives**
Session Chair: Barbara Hendrie, Regional Director, UN Environment North America Office
- Canadian Federal Government Representative
 - U.S. Federal Government Representative
- Presentation followed by general discussion on key messages from all participants*
- 3:15 – 4:00 **Presentation of Key Messages for UN Environment Assembly**
- Christian Ledwell, Media and Communications Officer, IISD
 - Michelle Wyman, Executive Director, National Council for Science & the Environment
- Final inputs on key messages and close of meeting*

Background for North American Regional Consultation in Advance of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)

1) UN Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) will host the third session of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya from 4 to 6 December 2017. The Environment Assembly, which is the governing body of UN Environment, has the universal membership of all 193 UN Member States. As the highest-level UN body to address global concerns on the environment, the Assembly will deliberate on the impact of pollution on humans and ecosystems under the theme “Towards a Pollution Free Planet”. The Assembly will deliver tangible commitments to accelerate the global transition to eliminate pollution of air, land, waterways, oceans, and from chemicals and waste. It will also showcase solutions and best practices to address these issues, while making the case for transformative actions and commitments from governments, business and civil society.

2) Objectives of the North American Regional Consultation

- a) Raise awareness and reinforce the impact of UN Environment and the Environment Assembly, especially in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the global and regional levels
- b) Encourage stakeholders to make commitments and share practices of successful multi-stakeholder partnerships to combat pollution at the Assembly
- c) Provide updates on other relevant areas of UN Environment’s work such as: Sustainable Development Goal indicators; GEO Regional Assessments; urban air quality monitoring; Environment Live; and global campaigns including CleanSeas, BreatheLife, Eliminating Lead in Paint and others.

3) Expected Outcome

- a) **Key Messages** - The Consultation will conclude with a document reflecting key messages from civil society to be shared with member states ahead of the 2017 Environment Assembly. Relevant content from the National Council for Science and the Environment Dialogue will also be included in the submission.
- b) **Commitments** - North American stakeholders will be encouraged to make pledges or expressions of interest to reduce their pollution footprint.
- c) **Partnerships** - Strategic partnerships will be identified for the implementation of the Environment Assembly resolutions and to support current campaigns.
- d) **Engagement** – Inspire participants to engage in the Environment Assembly by either attending the Assembly or following the negotiations virtually. Organizations will be encouraged to apply for accreditation.

4) Targeted Audience

- a) Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to UN Environment
- b) Relevant stakeholders not accredited to UN Environment
- c) Government representatives at the Federal/ Provincial level, as well as local governments
- d) Private sector representatives
- e) UN sister agencies
- f) Experts on Environment Assembly themes

5) Background Documents

- a) Towards a Pollution Free Planet Report
- b) Global Environment Outlook Regional Assessment for North America
- c) Cost of Pollution in Canada (IISD publication)