



Act #ForNature

**Virtual events
in support of the
Fifth Session of the
UN Environment Assembly**

Programme
9 - 23 February 2021





Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum

9 - 11 February 2021

The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) prior to Open Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) and the virtual session of UNEA-5 will be held as an online event that will allow Major Groups to discuss their input into this UNEA session and to exchange on other issues of importance. Reflecting the agenda of UNEA-5, it will feature a few consultative sessions on the themes that had been agreed upon by Major Groups. During 2021 and in preparation of the resumed session of UNEA-5 in February 2022, further consultations of MGS will be organized, including Regional Consultative Meetings, an international online consultation for MGS in June 2021 and full-fledged GMGSF in February 2022.

Expected outcomes

- MGS are informed about the main themes discussed at the online session of UNEA-5 and the process leading to resumed session of UNEA-5 in February 2022.
- MGS agree on joint positions and statements for the OECPR and UNEA.
- MGS views on UNEP @ 50 and Stockholm + 50 are presented and there is an agreement on next steps.

Participation

The GMGSF is open for the participation of accredited and not accredited MGS. Member states are invited to participate as observers.

Consultation leads and facilitators

Consultation 1 -UNEP Mid-Term Strategy: Ajay K Jha (Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, Farmers Major Group), Doug Weier (The Conflict and Environment Observatory, NGO Major Group), Wali Haider (Society for Roots for Equity, Farmers Major Group)

Consultation 2 - UNEP Program of Work: Mohamed Abdelraouf (Gulf Research Center, Scientific and Technological Community Major Group), Griffins Ochieng (Centre for Environment, Justice and Development, NGO Major Group)

Consultation 3 -UNEP @ 50: Stephen Stec (Central European University, Scientific and Technological Community Major Group), Yugratna Srivastava (SustainUS, Children and Youth Major Group)

Consultation 4 - Stockholm + 50: Jan-Gustav Strandenaes (Stakeholder Forum for Sustainable Development, NGO Major Group), Teresa Oberhauser (AEGEE European Students' Forum, Children and Youth Major Group)

Consultation 5 -Main messages from MGS to UNEA-5: Khawla al Muhannadi (Environment Friends Society, NGO Major Group), Aisha Karanja (Back to Basics, NGO Major Group), Patrizia Heidegger (European Environmental Bureau, NGO Major Group)

Agenda

February 9, 2021

15h – 16h Opening of the GMGSF

- Introductory Remarks by Jorge Laguna Celis, UNEP; Chair MGFC
- OECPR, online session of UNEA-5 and the resumed session of UNEA-5, Presentation by Ulf Bjornholm, UNEP
- Outcomes of the Global Children and Youth Environment Assembly, Presentation by NN, Children and Youth Major Group

16h – 18h: Consultation 1: UNEP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS), Facilitators: Ajay K Jha, Doug Weier, Wali Haider

18h – 20h Consultation 2: UNEP Program of Work (PoW), Facilitators: Mohamed Abdelraouf and Griffins Ochieng

20h – 22h Open Working Groups, organized by Consultation Leaders, developing common statements on MTS and PoW

February 10, 2021

10h – 10.30h Presentation of Working Groups on MTS and PoW, by rapporteurs designated by working groups

10.30 – 12.30 Consultation 3: UNEP @ 50, Facilitators: Stephen Stec, Yugratna Srivastava

14.30 – 17.30 Consultation 4: Stockholm + 50, Facilitators: Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, Teresa Oberhauser

18.30 – 20.30 Open Working Groups: Main messages of MGS to UNEA, Facilitators: Khawla Al-Muhannadi, Aisha Karanja, Patrizia Heidegger

February 11, 2021

15h – 17h Consultation 5: Main messages from MGS to UNEA, Facilitators: Khawla Al-Muhannadi, Aisha Karanja, Patrizia Heidegger

17h – 18h Closing of the meeting

Contact

For more information contact: unep-civilsociety@un.org

Access event page [here](#)



The Global Youth Environment Assembly

12 – 13 and 18 – 20 February 2021

The Global Youth Environment Assembly (YEA) is a gathering of representatives of Children and Youth organizations from all around the world, interested in environment and sustainable development. It will take place virtually, on 12-13, and 18-20 February 2021 prior to the virtual session of UNEA-5.

YEA is self-organized by the Children and Youth Major Group (MGCY) and as such not part of the official UNEA-5 program but an associated meeting. Participation is open to representatives of the MGCY accredited and non-accredited to UNEP. UN Agencies, Members States, MEAs, representatives of other Major Groups and others are invited to participate as observers.

During YEA, participants will discuss various themes including capacity-building on engaging with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) UNEA-5, Stockholm +50, COVID-19 and green recovery, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and other emerging issues. It aims at building capacity of youth in engaging in the environmental agenda and providing a platform for knowledge sharing and networking among young environmentalists.

Expected outcomes and actions

- Launching GEO-6 for Youth
- Launching an “Year of Youth and Environmental Action”
- Launch of Chemicals Waste Youth Platform
- A Children’s Day / segment
- Preparation of a short declaration with key messages from youth for the online session of UNEA-5 and broader environmental processes
- Preparation of a collective policy paper with youth priorities (on thematic topics) to be presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP
- A youth perspective / position paper on Stockholm+50 and UNEP@50

Contact

For more information, including on registration, please see: <https://www.youthenvironment.org/yea>



**UNEP MAJOR GROUP FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Building back better and greener with agroecology

Virtual event

17 February 2021 from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. EAT

Agroecological approaches are increasingly seen as being able to make a key contribution to mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, transitioning to sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems and building back better and greener. These approaches transform agriculture through a diversity of pathways, from different starting points, in a variety of contexts, but their adoption is currently constrained by market failures, maladapted policies and paucity of evidence on their performance in different contexts.

A group of partners, namely ICRAF, CIRAD, Biovision, CIFOR, FAO and UNEP (Advisory Group), has come together within a holistic **Transformative Partnership Platform on agroecological approaches to building resilience of livelihoods and landscapes (TPP)** to accelerate and coordinate their work on agroecology across international, national and local scales, with the aim of fostering transitions to more sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems. The objective of the TPP is to address critical knowledge and implementation gaps about agroecological transitions, to provide evidence to underpin advocacy and inform policy makers and donors about the potential of agroecological approaches to foster innovation that can sustainably improve livelihood and landscape resilience. This involves working in new ways, bringing together: research and development; science and social movements and local and scientific knowledge through transdisciplinary science and the co-creation of knowledge.

The virtual event will align with the ongoing discussions on agroecology in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) taking place in February 2021 and the UN Sustainable Food Systems in September 2021. The event will provide member States and other stakeholders with up-to-date information and successful examples of how agroecological approaches have supported communities and countries in building back better and greener.

Expected outcomes

- Presentation of successful implementation of agroecological transitions that contribute to building back better and greener.
- Exchange of examples of co-creation of knowledge: we aim at fostering a coalition of interested stakeholders, including donors and beneficiary countries around resolving knowledge and development gaps.

Contact

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Register <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8393806319804810767> 



***The Untold Story of the World's leading Environmental Institution: UNEP at Fifty* by Professor Maria Ivanova**

Book presentation

17 February 2021 from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. EAT

Established in 1972, UNEP was intended to be a nimble, fast, and flexible entity at the core of the UN system, the anchor institution for the global environment. The fiftieth anniversary of the organization's creation presents an opportunity to reflect on its core mandates, raise awareness about its accomplishments, and solicit input on its future. The forthcoming publication of [*The Untold Story of the World's Leading Environmental Institution: UNEP at Fifty*](#) by Professor Maria Ivanova¹ offers a tool for understanding UNEP's history and performance and engaging, member States, partners, staff and stakeholders in re-imagining its potential.

The past is prologue, and to frame the future of the organization, it is important to understand its history. Member States, partners, stakeholders and staff connected to UNEP would benefit from learning about the original vision, the efforts by the people of UNEP over time, the successes and challenges, and the opportunities at hand. Framed as UNEP@Fifty, the year ahead will open opportunities for dialogue and consideration of this past to help with imagining and developing potential transformative futures for the organization.

In this event, member States, partners, staff and general audiences will learn about the history of UNEP and its performance. They will also get an opportunity to discuss about the importance of multilateralism in an increasingly complex world, and the global role of UNEP in tackling unsustainable consumption and production to address the three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Format and speakers

1-hour virtual session with presentation and round table discussion

Speakers

Maria Ivanova, PhD

Associate Professor of Global Governance and Graduate Program Director, Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance, McCormack Graduate School and Director of Center for Governance and Sustainability

Inger Andersen

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme

Sveinung Rotevatn

Minister of Climate and the Environment, Norway and President of the Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly


Additional speakers to be announced

Moderator

Joe Ageyo Editorial Director at Royal Media Services and environmental journalist

Contact

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Register [here](#) 

¹ <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/untold-story-worlds-leading-environmental-institution>

Ocean Action for Sustainability

Building a global vision to tackle plastic pollution

17 February 2021 from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. EAT

By 2050 the planet will need to provide food, jobs, energy and raw materials required to sustain a population of 10 billion people. The long-term ability of oceans to provide services essential to human well-being rely on policies and economic models that promote sustainability, enhance sector efficiency and minimize environmental impacts from human activities and consumption.

Viewed through a lens of 'oceans', this event will explore key challenges and practical solutions to the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, diving into marine litter and plastic pollution as an example of local to global action. It will consider the regional and Kenyan contributions to the overall agenda.

The Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics completed its mandate at its fourth meeting in November 2020. A significant outcome of their work was in identifying a range of options to be further considered by UNEA-5b. To continue to build momentum towards UNEA-5b, there is a call for member states and stakeholders to recognize the magnitude and urgency of this issue, consider the identified options and to work cooperatively together to turn the tide on plastic.

This event will demonstrate the commitment and leadership of Kenya, and the Africa Region, on the ocean agenda, including impactful efforts to protect human health and the environment from marine litter and plastic pollution, including microplastics.

Objectives of the event

1. To demonstrate and showcase Kenya's commitment and contribution to reducing marine litter and plastic across the lifecycle, including through:
 - Progressive legislation to reduce single use plastic bags;
 - Public awareness and mobilization, e.g. FlipFlopi Expedition & Clean Seas campaign;
 - Ban on single-use plastics in protected areas;
 - Membership in the Global Partnership on Marine Litter;
 - Championing sustainable blue economy principles;
2. To invite EAC countries to the Clean Seas Source to Sea campaign, particularly reflecting on the FlipFlopi Expedition.
3. To promote high-level ambition to address the triple planetary crisis, including the need for a global common vision to address plastic pollution in the marine environment, protecting human health and addressing all sources and pathways of plastic pollution from land and rivers to oceans through a global agreement.

Proposed programme

Event Moderator: Joyce Msuya (to be confirmed)

1. Oceans as a lens to address the triple planetary crisis

Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean (confirmed)(5 mins): Inspirational keynote on key challenges and opportunities in connecting economic, environmental and societal objectives in holistic ocean policy. Highlighting key opportunities for ensuring ocean sustainability with the post-2020 biodiversity framework as well as the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Decade of Ocean Science.

Kenya Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (tbc) (5 mins): Kenya is committed to addressing the triple planetary crisis, sharing Kenya's ambitious and progressive approach. Highlighting the five action areas towards Ocean sustainability.

Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO Global Environment Facility (tbc) (5 mins): Outlining challenges and opportunities in delivering a transformative pathway to resilient oceans and resilient people.

2.Clean Seas/Flip Flopi: Riding the Wave to Impact with the First Lady of Kenya (tbc) (15 mins)

Flipflop Expedition: Kenya was one of the first countries to join the Clean Seas Campaign, of which there are now 62 countries. As part of Kenya's support, entrepreneurs and volunteers built a traditional dhow out of recycled plastic and flip flops to dramatically illustrate how wasteful it is to discard plastic. The flamboyant Flipflop set off from the island of Lamu in January and sailed to Zanzibar, stopping at towns and cities along the way to inspire interest in the topic and pledges to the campaign, including by government, private sector and the public. The Flip Flopi has now become an African Legacy and beacon of action and community engagement.

All hands on deck: There is now an invitation to join hands in the region to power a regional approach to pollution without borders. On March 8, a new expedition spanning Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, will begin in Lake Victoria to continue the momentum for urgent awareness and action on marine litter, plastics and other upstream pollutants like wastewater and nutrients; showcasing the source to sea issues.

3.Roundtable discussion: Building a global vision to tackle marine litter and plastic pollution as part of the pillar of the ocean action agenda, (1 hour 10 mins)

UNEP DED invites a roundtable discussion, reflecting on the successes like FlipFlop and asking participants to commit to a global vision, highlighting the following examples as a starting point.

Invited speakers

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (tbc) (5 mins): Kenya's ambitious and progressive approach, including sharing experiences with ban on plastic carrier bags and other important policy initiatives such as Kenya's Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy and Shoreline Management Strategy.

Further speakers to be identified.

Followed by high level interventions (2-3 mins) and open discussion focused on global high-level ambition.

Contact

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Register

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1890465521337473549>



Co-Hosted by the Government of Kenya and UNEP



UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment

18 - 20 February 2021

Third Global Session and Roundtables in support of the virtual session of UNEA-5: Integrated Solutions #ForNature

Under the theme *Integrated Solutions #ForNature*, the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment (UN-SPBF) will convene its Third Global Session online from 18 to 20 February 2021, in the lead up to and in support of the Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly.

The event will bring together influential partners and networks representing business, industry, finance, science, government, and civil society. It is organized in close coordination with UNEP divisions - Private Sector Unit, MEAs and partner citizen science and civil society organizations.

On the road to UNEP@50, Stockholm+50 and the resumed session of UNEA-5 in February 2022, UN-SPBF aims to act as a bridge between these landmark events, offering strategic opportunities for inclusive, multi-sector engagement and collaboration. This will take place through a continuum of focused activities that will kick-off in the lead up to UNEA

Strategic focus

The emergence of zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, are closely related to the health of ecosystems, which underpin human health and well-being. Investment in ecosystems restoration, combined with a shift towards circularity and sustainable consumption and production, has the potential to address the key drivers of ecosystem disruption, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and climate change.

Organized at the dawn of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UN-SPBF tackles unsustainable production and consumption as the common thread that runs through the three planetary crises as identified by UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy - climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Investing in the restoration of ecosystems and sustainable consumption and production offers the key to achieving a long-term and just post-COVID-19 recovery that accelerates and strengthens the achievement of the SDGs.

Each session under the UN-SPBF's Third Global Session is designed to facilitate a multi-sectoral common agenda, with priority actions developed through an inclusive, participatory process that is in line with UNEP's mandate and priorities. They aim to identify where the greatest opportunities for the shift to sustainable consumption and production lie by taking a full value-chain approach.

About UN-SPBF

UN-SPBF is UNEP's inclusive multi-stakeholder, multi-sector convening arm. It was launched by UNEP in December 2017 to strengthen the interface between science, policy, business and society at large. UN-SPBF is a network of networks, with over 3,000 affiliated partners. It convenes in conjunction with, and feeds into, the UNEA process. UN-SPBF is cross divisional, multi-sectoral and works closely with MEA secretariats. Engagement with civil society cuts across the key tracks of UN-SPBF's work.

For more information, visit www.un-spbf.org

Key tracks and sessions outline

Opening & ambition setting

- Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme
- H.E. Sveinung Rotevatn, Norway Minister of Climate and the Environment

Track one: Build Better: Integrated Solutions for Low-carbon, Resource-efficient, Inclusive Societies

Rethinking Cities: Bringing Nature to the Urban Environment

Co-convened with the Sustainable Cities Impact Programme, the Integrated Urban Solutions Partnership and the Global Alliance for Building and Construction (Global ABC)

A transition towards low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially just cities is crucial to advance towards the 2030 Sustainable Development and New Urban agendas. Cities that become more resource-efficient in transport, commercial buildings, and building heating/ cooling could achieve reductions of between 36 to 54 percent in energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, metals, land and water use, according to the International Resources Panel.

Urban planning, sector optimization, cross-sector optimization towards circularity and behavioural changes will together provide cumulative benefits far greater than those provided by each of the four levers individually.

The session will examine:

- The key strategies and innovations that aim to redesign, rethink and transform cities and the infrastructure that support them – especially in the global south -- towards greater efficiency, resilience and inclusion,
- The policies, investments and multi-sector initiatives required to implement these strategies at scale to achieve the SDGs,
- The cross-cutting interlinkages of different infrastructure systems, including cross-sectoral infrastructure integration, with a view on supporting changes in present consumption and production patterns,
- Social and environmental impacts linked to urban infrastructure development.

Healthy Food Systems for a Healthy Planet and Healthy People

Convened in support of the 2021 Food Systems Summit and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The rebuilding of economies after the COVID-19 crisis offers a unique opportunity to transform the global food system and make it resilient to future shocks, while ensuring environmentally sustainable and healthy nutrition for all. As agricultural systems form the foundation of our food systems, it is imperative that they are redesigned to restore and regenerate, rather than degrade ecosystems — all while providing affordable and healthy diets for a global population estimated to reach 10 billion by 2050. The question is less what we need to achieve, but “how” – how to induce behavioral change at scale to change macro-balances in ecosystems and reverse the damage to planetary health? What policies, incentives and investments are needed to motivate responsible individual and collective action and capitalize on the synergistic opportunities that lie in food systems? Unless we redesign food systems and consumption patterns, greenhouse gas emissions from global food production will continue to push the planet beyond the internationally agreed goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, even if we immediately halted all other emissions.

The session will look at why a transformation of our food systems is integral for nature and building back better in the context of COVID-19 and preparations for the 2021 Food Systems Summit convened by the UN Secretary-General. It will also review how targeted actions by public and private actors can support the required transformation.

The session will examine:

- Why a transformation of our food systems is integral for nature and economies?
- Regenerative Agriculture: Connecting Back to Nature
- Food Waste
- What targeted actions by public and private actors can support the required transformation?

Launch Event:

- The Food Waste Index

Track two: Big Data and Frontier Tech: Powering the Transition to a Sustainable Future

Co-convened with The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and Technology Partners

For 68 per cent of the environment-related SDG indicators there is not enough data to assess progress, according to UNEP studies which also found that towards all 12 of the SDGs targets related to the state of the environment, there is either no data or no progress made. To achieve the environmental dimension of the SDGs, it is essential to scale up environmental action that is backed by adequate knowledge. A task that is only achievable through the deployment of the latest technologies, including earth observations, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and the Internet of Things.

Sessions under this track will review opportunities presented by UNEP's new Medium-Term Strategy – due to be adopted by the UN Environment Assembly in February 2021 – and examine with the Big Data and Big Tech communities the multi-sector collaboration required towards its implementation. It will review progress made in the development of UNEP's Big Data Strategy and the World Environment Situation Room – including support and data integrations and analysis at the national level.

The session will aim to identify gaps, priorities and opportunities for action and examine principles, standards and data ethics; investment frameworks and innovative financing (with contributions from UNEP's Innovation Branch); lessons learnt from projects such as the Biodiversity Observation Network, Climate Trace and GHG Tracking. The Group on Earth Observations will report back on outcomes of the Earth Observations Indigenous Summit, with a focus on how satellite imagery can improve disaster risk management for indigenous communities. GEO will also provide an overview of its current work and future ambitions.

In cooperation with the European Parliament's special committee on AI and the Green Deal, the session will explore elements related to legislation, equity, democracy and transparency related to the technology use and the equitable sharing of Big Data products and services. To date, over 20 Member States have voiced their support to establish a Data for the Environment Alliance (DEAL). The session, for the first time, will present how this work is shaping up and the opportunities it presents.

Key technology partners (including IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Huawei, Google Earth Engine, Dassault Systèmes) will provide an overview of how their technologies are transforming our understanding of and actions for the planet. Including Business-to-Business green transformation and opportunities in AI. New initiatives and collaborations will be launched that directly contribute to UNEP's work and the vision presented in its Medium-Term Strategy.

Launch Event:

Launch of the "UNEP Marine Litter Digital Centre", a collaboration between UNEP's SPBF – IBM – GPML showcasing the latest AI-driven data integration tools, digital human model built on Machine Learning models and the digital collaboration centre. This work was conducted in partnership with the Global Partnership on Citizen Science and multiple stakeholders.

Context:

Convened by UN-SPBF since 2018, the Working Group on Big Data and Frontier Technologies for the Planet convenes the most influential and inspiring actors working to track the state of the environment through earth observations and in situ data gathering and using the latest technologies to trace the impact of human activities and turn data into knowledge that can be used for decision making across policy and enterprise.

The Working Group acts as a convening and partnership arm, supporting UNEP's Big Data strategy, World Environment Situation Room and the work on SDG indicators. It is also a launch pad for innovative pilots and initiatives. The Working Group directly contributed to the UNEA Ministerial Declaration of March 2019, which called for a Big Data Strategy for UNEP by 2025.

Track three: Managing Risk: Pollution Prevention and Management

Addressing E-waste through Tracking, Traceability and Transboundary Cooperation

Co-convened in partnership with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention & UNEP's Private Sector Unit

Around 20 to 50 million metric tonnes of e-waste are generated worldwide every year, comprising more than 5% of all municipal solid waste, which releases to the environment hazardous substances as well as materials of strategic value, such as indium and palladium, and precious metals such as gold, copper and silver.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, one of the approaches encouraging producers to bear the responsibility for the collection and management of their products when they reach end-of-life, have not been adopted in many developing countries. Tracking and traceability of e-waste require the adoption of new policies, technologies and transboundary cooperation.

The session will examine the policies, technologies and initiatives required by multiple actors to move the needle on e-waste management worldwide.

Managing Risk: Marine Litter Mitigation and Prevention

Co-convoked with The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)

As a pollutant without borders, marine litter and microplastics continue to choke the world's oceans. A recent study revealed higher concentrations of plastic hidden beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean than anyone previously thought - 7,000 microplastic particles per cubic meter of seawater. Plastics have even been found in human placentas, demonstrating the reach of this pollutants. Significantly reducing marine pollution by 2025, as envisaged by the Sustainable Development Goals, requires focused, accelerated action by multiple actors and sectors. To tackle plastics, the largest, most harmful and persistent fraction of marine litter, immediate action is needed.

The session will examine:

- What the latest science tells us about the risks posed by marine litter and microplastics for ecosystems, human health and society,
- The urgent policy action required at the multi-lateral and national levels to manage and mitigate the risk of marine litter in our environment,
- What part innovation, technology and finance have to play, and what multi-stakeholder cooperation offer in the management and mitigation of marine litter and microplastics related risk.

Closing Session: The Future of Environmental Multilateralism (Provisional timetable in East Africa Time)

Thursday, 18 February 2021

11:00 – 13:00 Pre-session: Youth Environment Assembly – UN-SPBF Joint Session

15:30 – 16:00 Official Opening

16:00 – 19:00 Big Data and Frontier Tech: Powering the Transition to a Sustainable Future

Friday, 19 February 2021

13:00 – 14:30 Managing Risk: Marine Litter and Microplastics Mitigation and Prevention

15:00 – 18:00 Rethinking Cities: Bringing Nature to the Urban Environment

Saturday, 20 February 2021

12:30 – 14:00 Addressing E-waste through Tracking, Traceability and Transboundary Cooperation

14:00 – 16:30 Nature-positive Food Systems for a Healthy Planet and Healthy People

17:00 – 19:00 Closing Session: The Future of Multilateralism

In partnership with:



Green Forum Global Launch

Pursuing Collaboration at Scale

18 February 2021 from 2 to 3.30 p.m.

As the movement for an inclusive green economy continues to grow and we enter the final decade of action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the importance and value of engagement and exchange among a growing number of global partners also continues to increase. While strengthening the management and sharing of knowledge and learning on green economy and sustainable development across the policy, business, and finance communities continues to be an important step to facilitate more informed decision-making, there remains tremendous untapped potential to facilitate real-time adaptive learning and knowledge sharing at scale and in a more targeted manner. This is of particular relevance as governments and other stakeholders continue to work to address the dual global crises of environmental degradation and COVID-19.

To enhance knowledge exchange worldwide—with the aim of achieving more informed, targeted, and rapid decision-making, the Green Forum (www.thegreenforum.org) will be launched at an event at UNEA-5. The Green Forum is an online community space for exchanging insights on emerging knowledge and learning related to the pursuit of a sustainable economic transition. It includes both public discussions on global topics as well as the ability for users to create dedicated groups focused on specific themes, initiatives, and projects. The discussions will be closely aligned with the UNEA decisions and tied to 15 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG17 on Partnerships (see Annex 1). Likewise, a series of groups are in the process of being established by leading institutions and experts on related topics such as green recovery from COVID-19, sustainable infrastructure, mineral resources governance, and water security.

The Green Forum is an online interactive community space for professionals to share and discuss insights in the pursuit of a sustainable economic transition. The Forum includes discussions on global topics and the ability for users to create dedicated groups focused on specific themes, initiatives, projects, or communities of practice. In addition to facilitating conversations among specific partners working on the same specific topic, objective or initiative, members of specific groups on the Green Forum have access to a range of custom features for joint knowledge creation, management, and exchange.

The Green Forum is managed by the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) - a global community of organisations and experts committed to collaboratively generating, managing, and sharing knowledge. Led by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the World Bank Group, GGKP draws together more than 75 partner organisations.

Objectives of the event

1. support implementation of UNEA decisions through scaling global collaboration;
2. generate excitement and interest about the Green Forum among professionals working across the globe on a sustainable economic transition;
3. increase the number of users who join and engage in conversations on the Green Forum; and
4. increase the number of dedicated groups created on the Green Forum focused on specific themes, initiatives, projects, or communities of practice.

Agenda

Welcome Remarks (pre-recorded) **Ban Ki-moon, Former Secretary-General, United Nations**

Overview Presentation of the Green Forum **Benjamin Simmons, Head, GGKP Secretariat**

Panel Reflections and Discussion: *Importance of scaling collaboration for achieving the SDGs and a green recovery*

Senior German Government Representative

Senior Swiss Government Representative

Senior Government Representative from non-OECD country

Closing Reflections **Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP**

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Register to join the Global Launch <http://ggkp.org/GreenForumGoesGlobal>



Tackling plastic waste through the Basel Convention

18 February 2021 from 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. EAT

This event aims to familiarize the audience with the Plastic Waste Amendments, adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2019, which made the Basel Convention the only legally binding instrument to specifically address plastic waste. The audience will also learn about the important work that is being undertaken to support countries in strengthening their capacities to tackle plastic waste via implementation of the Basel Convention. This includes the Plastic Waste Partnership, the Small Grant Programme on Plastic Waste, the updating of the technical guidelines on plastic waste, and projects providing technical assistance at the national level. Relevant developments under the Stockholm Convention with respect to plastics will also be considered.

Expected outcomes

1. An understanding of the critical role of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments in addressing the plastic waste problem.
2. Inspiration for approaches to tackle plastic pollution across the three pillars of the Basel Convention: controlling transboundary movements, ensuring environmentally sound management, and tackling sources of plastic waste.
3. Strengthened knowledge about the tools available and under development under the Basel Convention to address plastic waste.
4. An understanding of developments of relevance to plastics under the Stockholm Convention.

Programme

1. Opening
Rolph Payet, BRS Executive Secretary
2. Delivering through the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership
Ole Thomas Thommesen (Norway) and Ross Barley (Bureau of International Recycling), Co-chairs of Plastic Waste Partnership
3. Strengthening capacities through the Regional Centres and the Small Grants Programme (SGP) on Plastic Waste
Directors of Basel/Rotterdam Convention Regional Centres
4. Supporting Parties with tools, guidance and technical assistance
BRS Secretariat

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Register <https://unep-brs.webex.com/unep-brs/j.php?RGID=rf39c98d8166d2d6282aa97a5abcb5013>



Strengthening Non State Actor Commitments for biodiversity in the context of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the SDGs

18 February 2021 from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. EAT

Event organized by the Governments of China and Egypt, together with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People² is an initiative spearheaded by the Governments of China and Egypt, with support of the CBD Secretariat. The purpose is to build engagement with non-state actors to inform, inspire and showcase voluntary commitments, raising awareness on the urgency, ambition, and actions to reduce the drivers of loss of biodiversity and shift toward nature positive outcomes, within this decade.

As a non-negotiated solution space, the Action Agenda profiles commitments from all types of non-state actors, in support of the three objectives of the Convention, helping to catalyse integrated actions, partnerships and impact. The Action Agenda aims to encourage and boost positive ambition loops between countries and non-state actors– to influence more ambition from the bottom and the top, and the reverse.

Given the interconnections and underpinning of biodiversity in economic, social, and ecological systems, as the infrastructure supporting life on Earth, the Action Agenda also seeks to build awareness on commitments and actions that promote mainstreaming of biodiversity across socio-economic systems.

Actions by non-state actor can show how transformational shifts are being carried out in support of the post-2020 process and why cross-sectoral implementation of the global framework for biodiversity is critical for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Commitments voluntarily undertaken by non-state actors are featured on an online CBD registry and will be showcased at COP15, and at other key meetings, including through social media channels, to demonstrate the level, scale and types of commitments for biodiversity.

The Action Agenda online platform, currently hosts 166 commitments on 11 action areas: food systems and health; freshwater, coastal and ocean ecosystems; conservation and restoration of land ecosystem; climate change mitigation and adaptation; conservation and sustainable use of species; sustainable consumption and production; stewardship/ good governance; urban sustainability; green finance; biosafety; and access to benefit-sharing.

Objective and participation

The objective of the event is to underscore how non-state actor commitments support the urgency of action and ambition on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, while also showcasing concrete examples of biodiversity's fundamental role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers will present their motivations in setting commitments and share how commitments are translated into actions that reduce pressures on our socio-economic and ecological systems. Methodologies used to track progress will also be shared. Ultimately, commitments will show close alignment between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event will be virtual and open to all interested participants. The platform will be hosted by the CBD Secretariat, consisting of an hour and a half session, conducted in English. Schedule and registration details will be posted on UNEA5's website and the CBD website.

² Launched at the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 - COP14, [Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt Announcement: Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People](#).

Panelists will share their views on why taking action from their sector perspective is critical for biodiversity and sustainability, and how their organizations and coalition groups are contributing to bending the curve on biodiversity loss, with specific commitments and actions.

Countries and stakeholders will have an opportunity to speak, through alternating interventions, and dialogue session with the panellist. In preparation, participants may wish to consult the following documents:

1. Global Biodiversity Outlook -5 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/gbo5/publication/gbo-5-en.pdf>
2. Information on the Action Agenda: <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/>
3. Commitments made to the Action Agenda <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/contributions/>

The event will be also count on the support of partner organizations to ensure wide participation, dissemination and outreach ahead of the event and dissemination of a summary after the event.

Contact

For more information contact: neil.pratt@un.org

**UN BIODIVERSITY
CONFERENCE**
Investing in biodiversity for people and planet



COP 14 - CP/MOP9 - NP/MOP3
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018



2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
COP 15 - CP/MOP10 - NP/MOP4
Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING · CHINA

Addressing single-use plastic products pollution with a life cycle approach

19 February 2021 from 2 to 3.30 p.m. EAT

Resolution 9 of the fourth edition of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA4) in March 2019, on “Addressing Single-use plastic products pollution” ([UNEP/EA.4/R.9](#)), “encourages member states to **take actions**, as appropriate, to promote the identification and development of environmentally-friendly alternatives to single-use plastic products, taking into account the full life cycle implications of those alternatives”. Also, UNEP/EA.4/R.9 requests UN Environment Programme to **make available** existing **information** on action already taken by Member States to address plastic pollution as well as on the full life cycle environmental impacts of single-use plastic products compared to their alternatives, and sharing that information in advance of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.

An **INF document** ([UNEP/EA.5/INF/7](#)) covering the topics above-listed is available at <https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/pre-session-information-documents-unea-5>, and a **full report** will be made available ahead of this webinar event. **Regular updates** summarizing UNEP support to this and other resolutions are available on the resolutions portal <https://unea.unep.org/monitoring/>

To register

Please register for Addressing single-use plastic products pollution with a life cycle approach on Feb 19, 2021 2:00 PM EAT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1299553887714198032>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Objectives

1. Present the environmental impacts of selected single-use plastic products and their alternatives from a life cycle perspective. Results are part of a [series of meta-studies](#), each covering widespread single-use plastic products and their alternatives: <https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/single-use-plastic-products-studies/>.
2. Present an overview of actions being taken by Member States to address plastic pollution following a life cycle approach, with examples from specific Member States.
3. Learn from Member States what are the priority actions that they intend to pursue
4. Define what Member States find most useful in terms of support by UNEP to strengthen action on single-use plastic products pollution.

Format

90 minutes virtual session convened by India (proponent of Resolution 4/9) and the European Union, with an introductory presentation and panel discussion with the co-convenors and additional Member States.

Welcome remarks by Ligia Noronha, Director Economy Division, UNEP and co-hosts Government of India (representative TBC) and DG Environment of the European Commission (Mr. William Neale, adviser to the Director, Circular Economy and Green Growth Directorate)

Presentation of the Report *Addressing single-use plastic products pollution with a life cycle approach* by UNEP (Alison Watson and Llorenç Milà i Canals)

Short presentations on Actions by Member States to address single-use plastic products pollution

Contact person in UNEP

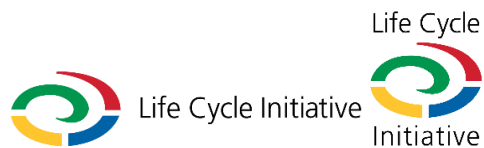
Llorenç Milà i Canals (Economy Division)

Co-Hosts: Government of India, European Commission, UNEP



Technical Support: Life Cycle Initiative

To pick one among the two below:



Register here <http://bit.ly/value-chain-UNEA>



The Value Chain Approach for Action on Sustainable Consumption and Production

19 February 2021 from 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. EAT

The science is clear on the need to decouple economic growth from natural resource use, and the positive impacts this would have on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, protecting biodiversity, reducing pollution, and driving socio-economic development. Yet this evidence does not always reach key decision makers in a way that is relevant and actionable. Stakeholders, whether governments or businesses, need comprehensive and tailored information to help identify priorities, implement strategies, and monitor impacts around the sustainable management of natural resources.

To meet this need, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested that the One Planet network and the International Resource Panel (IRP) form a Task Group to catalyse science-based policy action on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) ([UNEP/EA.4/Res.1](#)). In addition, it requested "...that the task group complete its work in time to present the outcome to the Environment Assembly at its fifth session." The IRP and One Planet network formed the [Task Group](#) comprising experts on natural-resource use from the IRP, and practitioners on SCP from across the One Planet network, in response to this resolution.

In order to 'translate' the technical information in IRP reports into actionable, science-based recommendations on SCP for governments and businesses, the Task Group developed a 'value-chain approach' and applied it to three critical sectors: construction, food and textiles. The report entitled "[Catalysing science-based policy action on Sustainable Consumption and Production: The value-chain approach & its application to food, construction and textiles](#)" explains the 'value-chain approach' methodology and shares findings from the three sectoral analyses.

The purpose of this virtual event is therefore to present the value-chain approach developed by the Task Group and discuss how it can strengthen the science policy-interface on SCP, in response to [UNEP/EA.4/Res.1](#).

Objectives

- Present the value-chain approach and demonstrate how it enables evidence-based prioritisation of action on Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Raise awareness about the benefits of a value-chain approach
- Discuss the key elements required to strengthen the science-policy interface, learnt through the application of the value-chain approach

Programme

Welcome remarks by Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP

The Value Chain Approach: A new way to trigger action on SCP by Arthur Eijs, Ministry for Infrastructure & Environment Netherlands, Task Group member

Panel Discussion on SCP in Action: Priorities and Opportunities in Food, Construction and Textiles

1. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina (representative tbc), Task Group member
2. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa (representative tbc), Task Group member
3. Izabella Teixeira, IRP Co-Chair and Task Group member
4. Mr. Rijit Sengupta, Chief Executive Office of the Centre for responsible Business in India, Task Group member

Contact

Cecilia Lopez y Royo cecilia.lopezyroyo@un.org and María José Baptista mariajose.baptista@un.org

Link to event page <http://bit.ly/value-chain-UNEA>



The Green Gigaton Challenge: delivering on the climate finance commitment

19 February 2021 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

As the UN Secretary-General has emphasized the world needs to achieve three interrelated goals: reach net zero emissions by 2050, adapt to accelerating climate change and halt the degradation of natural capital. The immediate imperative for COVID-19 recovery efforts must therefore be to place the world on a path of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth. But the international community is falling short of the agreed goal of mobilizing 100 billion a year in climate finance to the developing world.

Forests remain particularly underfunded although there cannot be a solution to the climate or biodiversity crises without ending deforestation. Only by working with national and state governments, and by channeling private capital, can we achieve transformative reductions in deforestation. Some of the most cost-effective climate solutions can be achieved by investing in tropical forests through jurisdictional programs to reduce tropical deforestation, working across entire countries.

The [Green Gigaton Challenge](#) (GGC) is a new, ambitious and innovative response led by UN-REDD and Emergent to the interrelated climate, biodiversity and COVID-19 crises. Through donor-funded floor prices and private investments above these prices, the GGC aims to mobilize public and private funds to finance a gigaton of emission reductions from forests per year by 2025. At a floor price of 10-15 USD/tCO_{2e}, the GGC would result in 10-15 billion USD/year to pay for emission reductions in forest countries.

The Challenge brings together a coalition of public and private partners to channel funds into efforts led by national and subnational governments to halt deforestation, while helping companies complement their emissions reductions with the purchase of high-integrity carbon credits. The initiative supports forest countries in their efforts to achieve and go beyond their NDCs by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). By mobilizing public and private results-based finance, the Green Gigaton Challenge aims to build by UNFCCC COP25 a visible demand signal needed to unlock the supply pipeline of high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ emissions reductions.

How ambitious is this target?

One gigaton of annual emissions reductions is equivalent to taking 80 percent of the cars off American roads. One gigaton of annual transactions from REDD+ is about half of what would be needed if all countries responded by increasing their ambition consistent with a 2-degree target. The event will feature decision-makers from well-known companies seeking to invest in forest-based solutions and governments of forested developing countries, introducing the concept and share lessons learned through a discussion among early movers.

Contact

Florian Eisele, UN-REDD Programme, florian.eisele@un.org

Register to join the event on Zoom. Language: English.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FeJIBuMbTI6hIJIQXsMTkA



Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)

Launch event

22 February 2021 from 2 p.m. to 3.15 p.m.

As convincingly demonstrated by the International Resource Panel , finding ways to make global resource extraction and processing more sustainable is essential for keeping humanity's footprint within planetary boundaries.

Bringing together governments and relevant networks and organisations, the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) aims to provide a global impetus for initiatives related to the circular economy transition, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, building on efforts being deployed internationally. GACERE is being established by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union (EU), and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in coordination with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Building on existing initiatives and cooperating with regional alliances (such as the African Circular Economy Alliance , and the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean), the objective of GACERE is to support the transition to a global circular economy for more efficient and equitable use of resources so as to achieve sustainable consumption and production and inclusive and sustainable industrialization. GACERE members will do so by working together and advocating at the political level and in multilateral fora.

GACERE will be launched on the occasion of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly ([UNEA 5](#)) with a brief inaugural in the margins of the first segment of UNEA 5 on Monday 22 February from 14:00-15:00 UTC+3.

The side event will be hosted by Mr Viginus SINKEVIČIUS, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Ms Inger ANDERSEN, United Nations Under Secretary General and UNEP's Executive Director, and Mr LI Yong, UNIDO's Director-General.

Ministers of countries having joined GACERE and stakeholders will be invited to provide their perspectives as to the Alliance's intended role in supporting a global just transition to circular and resource efficient economies and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

More information is available [here](#). To register, please click [here](#).

Official UNEA-5 press conference

Launch of the UNEP's Making Peace with Nature & UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy

22 February 2021 from 3 p.m. EAT

Journalists are invited for a high-level, virtual press conference on 22 February 2021 at 3 p.m. EAT.

During the press conference UNEP will officially launch Making Peace with Nature report, present 2022-2025 Medium Term Strategy and set the path to 2021 global environmental agenda and resumed session of UNEA-5 in February 2022.

The report Making Peace with Nature: This new report by UNEP presents the most comprehensive blueprint yet for addressing the climate, nature and pollution crises simultaneously to secure a sustainable future and prevent future pandemics. The report explains how scientific progress and bold policymaking can open a path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and a carbon neutral world by 2050.

Details for journalists to follow separately.

Member States will be able to watch the live feed of the media event on the UNEA website.

Media enquiries: unep-newsdesk@un.org

Resources for the official meeting of the fifth UN Environment Assembly



Fifth meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives

15 - 19 February 2021 - Online, Kenya

<https://www.unep.org/events/open-ended-cpr-oepr/fifth-meeting-open-ended-committee-permanent-representatives>

Fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly

22 – 23 February 2021 - Online, Kenya

<https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/unea5>

Other contacts

Secretariat of the Governing Bodies: unep-sgb@un.org

General communication enquiries: catherine.beltrandi@un.org and carlota.estalella@un.org



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