Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives 8 December 2021 16:00 – 19:00 (GMT+3) Online meeting

Agenda Item 2: Consideration of the agenda, structure format, modalities and side events for UNEA 5.2

This note, entitled "Recommended list of official side events for UNEA-5.2 and the special session on UNEP@50", serves as a background document for consideration under agenda item 2 - Consideration of the agenda, structure format, modalities and side events for UNEA 5.2.

The note includes a recommended list of official side events for the resumed session of UNEA-5 UNEA-5.2 and the special session on UNEP@50.

Following an open call issued in August 2021 to UN Member States, UN entities, including the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and major groups and stakeholders accredited to the UN Environment Programme, a total of **174 side event applications** were received by the secretariat through a dedicated online application portal by the deadline of 31 October 2021. This record number of applications demonstrates a very high interest by all stakeholders from all parts of the world to contribute to these milestone events.

Following the submission of applications, the secretariat has reviewed and assessed the contributions applying a thorough selection process that has aimed to identify lead organizers for a limited number of high-profile side events. This process resulted in the shortlisting of a total of **20 official side events** for UNEA-5, and 2 official side events for UNEP@50. The recommended side events have been selected with a view to ensure a broad geographical representation of stakeholders, a high potential to add value to the UNEA sessions, as well a high-level resonance in relation to the overall theme for UNEA-5 – "Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". More specifically, the following criteria have been applied in the selection process:

- 1. <u>Thematic consideration</u>: The theme of the side event should relate to the theme of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly, also taking into account the guidance outlined in the <u>background</u> note <u>underlying the choice of the theme</u> by the UNEA Bureau in December 2019; or focus on the special session on UNEP@50.
- 2. <u>Compelling speakers and audience engagement</u>: The side event should, as far as possible, ensure an interactive and engaging dialogue with panel members and/or the audience with a moderator that has a background in hosting such events to ensure a compelling event within the allocated time.
- 3. <u>Representation</u>: The design and structure of the side event should facilitate broad stakeholder participation and should, where relevant, include representatives from the civil society, the private sector and the scientific community, and the choice of lead speakers / contributors / panelists to the event lists should to the extent possible be geographically, generationally and gender balanced and should generally not exceed six people.

4. Outreach and communications: Priority has been given to side events that are co-sponsored by two or more entities/ partners, that have a dynamic and strong communications / media component built into the event that serves to raise the profile of the issue and ergo UNEA 5.2.

The shortlisting was carried out in two phases, whereby a longlist was created based on the above-mentioned established criteria. In a second phase, the longlist was assessed by senior management representatives from across the UNEP secretariat, to select the best applications to arrive at the final shortlist. The proposed official side events for special session on UNEP@50 was subject to a separate process led by the UNEP@50 coordination team.

In addition to the shortlist, about 60 additional proposals from the longlist were identified as potential contributors to the selected side events, within 4 thematic clusters that address the same or similar topics. On this basis, the organizers of the selected side events will – with the support of the secretariat – be invited to reach out to the other applicants in each cluster to explore possible cooperation to enhance the quality and ownership of the final side event, with potentially higher impacts. Such an approach can lead to broader engagement among key stakeholders and may spur new forms of cooperation across Member States and organizations that go beyond the organization of a single event.

The approach may require additional efforts of outreach and coordination among different stakeholders, which UNEP will help facilitate, as appropriate. UNEP will also provide guidance and support to secure an adequate stakeholder, gender and generational balance for the side events panels.

Following review and possible further guidance provided by the UNEA and CPR Bureau at its meeting on 8 December, the successful applicants will be informed by the secretariat in December.

With regard to the specific distribution of events in time and space, the secretariat will need more time to prepare a fully-fledged program. The programming will take into account the guidance provided in the agreed Outcome of the Process for review by the CPR. Thus, the secretariat will aim for "an optimal balance between political negotiations, the UNEA high-level segment, and official and non-official UNEA events, to ensure political ownership and to enable, as far as possible, all Member States to participate in the negotiations on UNEA resolutions, by rationalizing the number of side events and other events, and avoiding overlaps in the scheduling and structure of UNEA sessions." This means that no official side events will take place at the same time as formal meetings, and that only a limited number of side events will be organized in parallel.

While most side events will be organized fully online, the secretariat is also exploring options for a limited number of high-profile side events to take place in a hybrid format from the UN conference rooms. Some events may also be pre-recorded / produced for transmission in advance. Furthermore, a "green room" may be set up which will facilitate possible high-level participation by virtual means directly from the UN compound during UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50.

Finally, the secretariat will seek to ensure that the official UNEA side events reach as large an audience as possible, through effective promotion and communication on UNEP's main website and social media platforms, and by reaching out to UNEP partners, goodwill ambassadors, and others.

Members of the two Bureaux are invited to endorse the proposed selection of official side events for the resumed session of UNEA-5 and the special session on UNEP@50, in accordance with established practices for previous UNEA sessions, and provide possible additional guidance for the organization of the side events.

Recommended list of official side events for UNEA-5.2 and the special session on UNEP@50

| Theme | Organizers/contributors |
|---------------|---|
| #1 Marine | Lead organizer: |
| Litter and | |
| Plastic | Organizer: Rwanda and Germany |
| Pollution - | Title: Steps of a participatory approach towards a new global agreement on marine litter |
| Steps towards | and plastic pollution |
| a global | Proposal no 12 |
| agreement. | |
| | |
| | Potential contributors: |
| | <u>Title:</u> Abidjan Convention Countries for a global treaty against plastic pollution |
| | Organizer: Abidjan Convention |
| | Proposal 3 |
| | 1 10 posar 5 |
| | Title: Multi-Stakeholder Action Agenda on Ocean Plastic Pollution |
| | Organizer: United States |
| | Proposal 59 |
| | - 10 possi. 33 |
| | Title: The critical role a UN plastics treaty can play in achieving the SDGs: Stakeholder |
| | perspectives on seizing the opportunity to start intergovernmental negotiations |
| | Organizer: WWF + Republic of Viet Nam, Ellen MacArthur Foundation (+ other Member |
| | States TBC) |
| | Proposal 92 |
| | . 10,0034.32 |
| | Title: Tackling plastic pollution through a multilateral environmental agreement: The |
| | contributions of the Basel Convention |
| | Organizer: Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions |
| | Proposal 37 |
| | |
| | Title: Plastic pollution from source to sea: Empowering researchers and non-academic |
| | partners in the Global South to face a planetary threat. |
| | Organizer: Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) |
| | Proposal 157 |
| #2 Oceans | Lead organizer: |
| Governance | |
| | Title: Stepping up to strengthen ocean governance under SDG14 |
| | Organizer: UK Government |
| | Proposal 45 |
| | |
| | |
| | Potential contributors: |
| | Title: Delivering co-benefits for a blue recovery and a healthy ocean through regional |
| | cooperation and action. |
| | Organizer: UNEP |
| | Proposal 143 |
| | - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| | Title: Creation of a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Abidjan Convention area. |
| | Organizer: Abidjan Convention/UN Environment Programme. |
| | Proposal 4 |
| | <u> </u> |

<u>Title</u>: Climate-driven multi-stressors: impacts on ocean health and potential solutions.

Organizer: IUCN Proposal 139

#3 Towards Zero Pollution Lead organizer:

Title: A 'zero pollution ambition' to protect nature and people

Organizer: European Commission

Proposal 49

Potential contributors:

Title: The Nitrogen Promise: Youth Nitro Visioning to Achieve Sustainable Development

Goals – Colombo Declaration

Organizers: Sri Lanka, UNEP, Parley for the Oceans.

Proposal 165

Title: The Invisible Wave: Getting to zero chemical pollution in the ocean.

Organizer: The Economist Group + Nippon Foundation

Proposal 16

Title: Evidence-based approach to close the loop of plastic waste value chain in ASEAN

countries

Organizer: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Proposal 54

Title: Greening Customs for People, Planet and Prosperity: The Case of Chemicals and Waste

Management

Organizer: UN Environment Programme

Proposal 142

Title: The global e-waste challenge and the Basel Convention

Organizer: Ghana and Switzerland

Proposal 152

#4 Towards a circular economy

Lead organizer:

<u>Title:</u> Reuse Portal Launch – a global initiative to promote reuse solutions via a joint digital portal that engages innovators, governments, consumer companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders interested in unlocking reuse models at scale.

Organizer: World Economic Forum and UNEP

Proposal 69

Potential contributors:

<u>Title:</u> Acting to promote sustainable waste management and to improve the health of our land, ocean and freshwater systems.

<u>Organizer:</u> IUCN <u>Proposal 144</u>

Title: The use of plastic waste material vs. the use of local natural resources: What is the

silver bullet for affordable, sustainable building and living around the globe?

Organizer: International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)

Proposal 10

Title: Towards a circular economy for the sustainable management of plastic waste on

beach and ocean ecosystems

Organizer: The Mohammed VI Foundation For Environmental Protection

Proposal 43

Title: How to build a circular economy for plastic waste

Organizer: Alliance to End Plastic Waste

Proposal 145

Title: The Circular Economy: mining's role in a greener future

Organizer: International Council on Mining and Metals

Proposal 146

Title: Beating the Heat with Nature: Sustainable Urban Cooling for Healthy, Liveable and

Resilient Cities

Organizer: WWF Sweden

Proposal 83

#5 sustainable agriculture

#5 sustainable Lead organizer:

Organizer: Denmark and country partners to the Amsterdam Partnership Declaration

<u>Title:</u> We are all Atlas: Sharing best practices for collaboration on sustainable deforestation-free agricultural commodity production and consumption.

Proposal 164

Potential contributors:

Title: Betting on youth and agroecology for planetary survival: The UNEP we need.

Organizer: Society for International Development

Proposal 159

Title: Nature-Based Business Models: Opportunities & Challenges for the Food & Beverage

Sector

Organizer: World Environment Center

Proposal 126

Title: Climate Change, Adaptation and Global Food Security

Organizer: African Youth International Development Foundation

Proposal 33

#6 The biodiversity post 2020

Framework

Lead organizer:

Title: Delivering the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Ensuring Success at COP 15

and Facilitating Early Implementation

Organizer: CBD Secretariat

Proposal 150

Potential contributors:

Title: Closing the Biodiversity Funding Gap: How far have we come? Organizer: UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Proposal 21

Title: Decoupling Consumption from Biodiversity Loss – Information, Awareness and

Action

Organizer: One Planet Network

Proposal 82

Title: We are part of the Solution – A United Nations system commitment for catalyzing

collective action for nature Organizer: UNEP-WCMC

Proposal 120

Title: South-South Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation in Support of the Post-2020 global

Biodiversity Framework

Organizer: African Wildlife Foundation

Proposal 77

Consumption

#7 Sustainable Lead organizer:

and Production Title: The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production: a turning point in UNEP's journey for sustainable development

Organizer: UNEP / 10YFP One Planet Network Secretariat)

Proposal 121

Potential contributors:

Title: If not us, then who? How sport, gaming, scouts and universities are rolling up their

sleeves for nature Organizer: UNEP Proposal 106

#8 Nature and Lead organizer: the SDGs

Title: Mapping Nature for the Sustainable Development Goals

Organizers: Costa Rica; Uganda, CBD, UN Environment Programme and UNDP

Proposal 100

Potential contributors:

Title: Achieving the SDGs through innovative & Integrated approaches: innovative integrated partnerships for a more equitable, nature-positive and carbon neutral world

Organizer: UNEP Proposal 107

Title: A Self-Financing, Sustainable Economy for the Achievement of the SDG's

Organizer: Institute for Planetary Synthesis (Brazil)

Proposal 11

| Title: Voices of hope and faith - Sharing visions living in harmony with nature Organizer: The Lutheran World Federation Proposal 22 Potential contributors: Title: Ministerial Dialogue on Al-Mizan: Covenant for the Earth a blueprint to strengthen Islamic action for nature Organizer: UNEP Proposal 2 #10 Green recovery after COVID Lead organizer: Title: Green Recoveries for Accelerating Economic Transformation Organizer: PAGE (UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy) Proposal 108 Potential contributors: Title: From flu to fortune: Why innovative investments in nature will lead to a sustainable post-Covid future Organizer: IUCN Proposal 58 Title: The impact of COVID on the green recovery in Pacific Island states Organizer: Local2030 Islands Network Proposal 71 Title: Healthy planet, healthy people – launch of UNEPs One Health initiative Organizer: UNEP Proposal 89 Title: How our food systems need to change post COVID-19 Organizer: ProVeg International Proposal 151 #11 Digital Environmental Sustainability Title: Accelerating Action towards A Digital Planet for Sustainability Proposal 39 #12 Circularity Lead organizer: WNPP Proposal 39 | | |
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| Title: Voices of hope and faith - Sharing visions living in harmony with nature Organizer: The Lutheran World Federation Proposal 22 Potential contributors: Title: Ministerial Dialogue on Al-Mizan: Covenant for the Earth a blueprint to strengthen Islamic action for nature Organizer: UNEP Proposal 2 #10 Green recovery after COVID #10 Green Recoveries for Accelerating Economic Transformation Organizer: PAGE (UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy) Proposal 108 Potential contributors: Title: From flu to fortune: Why innovative investments in nature will lead to a sustainable post-Covid future Organizer: IUCN Proposal 58 Title: The impact of COVID on the green recovery in Pacific Island states Organizer: Local2030 Islands Network Proposal 71 Title: Healthy planet, healthy people – launch of UNEPs One Health initiative Organizer: UNEP Proposal 89 Title: How our food systems need to change post COVID-19 Organizer: ProVeg International Proposal 151 Title: Accelerating Action towards A Digital Planet for Sustainability Organizer: Kenya, Germany, UNDP, UNDP and International Science Council Proposal 39 | #9 Faith for | Lead organizer: |
| #10 Green Lead organizer: UNEP Proposal 2 #10 Green Lead organizer: PAGE (UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy) Proposal 108 Potential contributors: Title: From flu to fortune: Why innovative investments in nature will lead to a sustainable post-Covid future Organizer: IUCN Proposal 58 Title: The impact of COVID on the green recovery in Pacific Island states Organizer: Local 2030 Islands Network Proposal 71 Title: Healthy planet, healthy people – launch of UNEPs One Health initiative Organizer: UNEP Proposal 89 Title: How our food systems need to change post COVID-19 Organizer: ProVeg International Proposal 151 #11 Digital File: Accelerating Action towards A Digital Planet for Sustainability Proposal 39 Prop | Nature | Organizer: The Lutheran World Federation |
| Islamic action for nature Organizer: UNEP Proposal 2 #10 Green recovery after COVID Title: Green Recoveries for Accelerating Economic Transformation Organizer: PAGE (UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy) Proposal 108 | | Potential contributors: |
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| Title: Green Recoveries for Accelerating Economic Transformation Organizer: PAGE (UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy) Proposal 108 Potential contributors: Title: From flu to fortune: Why innovative investments in nature will lead to a sustainable post-Covid future Organizer: IUCN Proposal 58 Title: The impact of COVID on the green recovery in Pacific Island states Organizer: Local2030 Islands Network Proposal 71 Title: Healthy planet, healthy people – launch of UNEPs One Health initiative Organizer: UNEP Proposal 89 Title: How our food systems need to change post COVID-19 Organizer: ProVeg International Proposal 151 #11 Digital Environmental Sustainability Title: Accelerating Action towards A Digital Planet for Sustainability Organizer: Kenya, Germany, UNDP, UNDP and International Science Council Proposal 39 | #10 Green | Lead organizer: |
| Organizer: PAGE (UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy) Proposal 108 Potential contributors: Title: From flu to fortune: Why innovative investments in nature will lead to a sustainable post-Covid future Organizer: IUCN Proposal 58 Title: The impact of COVID on the green recovery in Pacific Island states Organizer: Local2030 Islands Network Proposal 71 Title: Healthy planet, healthy people – launch of UNEPs One Health initiative Organizer: UNEP Proposal 89 Title: How our food systems need to change post COVID-19 Organizer: ProVeg International Proposal 151 #11 Digital Environmental Sustainability Title: Accelerating Action towards A Digital Planet for Sustainability Organizer: Kenya, Germany, UNDP, UNDP and International Science Council Proposal 39 | recovery after | |
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| Organizer: ProVeg International Proposal 151 #11 Digital Environmental Sustainability #12 Circularity Dranizer: ProVeg International Proposal 151 Title: Accelerating Action towards A Digital Planet for Sustainability Organizer: Kenya, Germany, UNDP, UNDP and International Science Council Proposal 39 Lead organizer: | | Organizer: UNEP |
| Environmental Organizer: Kenya, Germany, UNDP, UNDP and International Science Council Sustainability Proposal 39 #12 Circularity Lead organizer: | | Organizer: ProVeg International |
| #12 Circularity Lead organizer: | #11 Digital Environmental | Organizer: Kenya, Germany, UNDP, UNDP and International Science Council |
| · - | Sustainability | Proposal 39 |
| and Nature | #12 Circularity | Lead organizer: |
| | and Nature | |

Title: Second High-level Meeting of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) - circular economy to protect against nature loss/post-2020. Organizer: Japan Proposal 90 Potential contributors: Title: Innovations for a Nature Positive Economy: Regeneration, Recirculation, Resilience Organizer: Consumers International Proposal 9 #13 Circular Lead organizer: economy in Africa Title: Accelerating a Just Transition to a Circular Economy in Africa Organizer: UNEP, African Union, AMCEN, African Circular Economy Alliance Proposal 158 Potential contributors: Title: Using the clothes we love to protect the nature we need Organizer: South Africa Proposal 141 Title: "Applying science and building capacity in the regions for high-impact strategies on sustainable consumption and production" Organizer: UNEP Proposal 93 #14 Lead organizer: Implementatio n of the Title: The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: Raising ambitions for nature Decade of Organizer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Ecosystems Proposal 46 Restoration Potential contributors: Title: International Year of Rangelands - innovation in sustainable rangeland management Organizer: International Livestock Research Institute Proposal 101 Title: Ecosystem restoration via EbA approach to build back better Organizer: India Water Foundation Proposal 78 <u>Title:</u> Pay attention - neglected ecosystems and livelihoods can help tackle the world's climate, nature and pollution crises with a focus on mountains, peatlands and drylands. Organizer: UNEP Mountain Partnership, Global Peatlands Initiative, Rangelands Initiative of the International Land Coalition Proposal 61

#15 Nature-Proposed Organizer: based solutions and climate Title: Nature Based Solutions in the Americas change Organizer: Chile, Mexico, Canada, and Costa Rica adaptation at Proposal 30 regional level Potential contributors: Title: Scaling up and financing Nature-based Solutions to increase action on climate adaptation Organizer: UNEP and IUCN Proposal 112 Title: Whose Nature? Whose Solutions? Interrogating Nature-Based Solutions from the Ground Organizer: IBON International and Indigenous People's Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation Proposal 44 Title: Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast and Nile Delta Regions in Egypt Project (ECCADP) / Towards COP 27 Organizer: Egypt Proposal 53 Title: Scaling up investments in nature-based solutions by several orders of magnitude Organizer: UNEP Proposal 129 Title: Nature-based solutions for sustainable and resilient infrastructure and a green recovery Organizer: UNEP Proposal 125 #16 Nature Proposed Organizer: conservation and Human Title: Reimagining conservation: integrating human rights in the development and Rights implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Organizer: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Proposal 138 Potential contributors: Title: The Integration of Environment and Human Rights -- A Triumph for Sustainable Development Organizer: Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL); Johns Hopkins University/SAIS Proposal 91 Title: Putting children's environmental rights at the heart of the sustainable development agenda: An intergenerational dialogue.

Organizer: Children's Environmental Rights Initiative

Proposal 96

| | <u>Title:</u> Nature-based solutions: exploring opportunities, securing rights, and understanding risks <u>Organizer</u> : Forest Peoples Programme <u>Proposal 153</u> |
|------------------------------|--|
| | <u>Title:</u> Solutions for peace and nature, looking at armed conflict and issues around natural resources and governance. <u>Organizer:</u> PAX and IUCN <u>Proposal 173</u> |
| #17 Education | Proposed Organizer: |
| for Nature | Troposed Organizer. |
| ioi ivature | <u>Title</u> : We are what we teach: How can education be re-wired for the future? With member states, UN, education institutions and student leaders, how should education change to deliver a sustainable future. <u>Organizer</u> : UNEP <u>Proposal 97</u> |
| | Potential contributor: Title: Mobilizing Young People for a Greener World through Non-Formal Education Organization: World Organization of the Scout Movement. Proposal 160 |
| #18 Clean air | <u>Title:</u> Regional Responses to the Air Pollution Crisis <u>Organizer</u> : United States <u>Proposal 7</u> |
| #19 Sustainable oceans | <u>Title</u> : Road to Lisbon: The 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference <u>Organizers</u> : Government of Kenya and Government of Portugal <u>Proposal: 174</u> |
| #20 Towards Stockholm+50 | <u>Title:</u> Transforming global value chains for a healthy planet and prosperity for all <u>Organizers:</u> Sweden, UNEP 10YFP, WEF <u>Proposal 148</u> |

UNEP@50 side events

| #1 regional | Proposed Organizer: |
|-----------------|--|
| contribution to | |
| environmental | Title: LAC Forum@40: The Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the |
| multilateralism | Caribbean 40 th Anniversary: reflecting and looking forward on the regional contribution to |
| | environmental multilateralism. |
| | Organizer: UNEP Office, LAC Forum of Ministers |
| | Proposal 20 |
| | |

35 years of Multilateral

Agreements

#2 Celebrating **Proposed Organizer:**

Title: Celebrating 35 years of compliance mechanisms under MEAs Environmental Organizer: The Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Convention Secretariats Proposal 75

Potential contributors:

Title: From Policies to Action: Strengthening the Environmental Rule of Law

Organization: Environmental Law Institute

Proposal 17

Title: Memorializing Maurice Strong and the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of

UNEP

P Organizer: China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation

proposal 167

Other Multilateral Environmental Agreement Secretariats