

Synthesis Report of the Five Regional Multi-stakeholder Consultations for the Stockholm+50 Meeting

Written by Tomilola Akanle Eni-ibukun, Ph.D. Edited by Elena Kosolapova, Ph.D. Digital Edited by Diego Noguera.

Overview

The UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972 Stockholm Conference) was a watershed moment for environmental governance, as it was the first UN conference on international environmental issues. The Conference, which took place in Stockholm, Sweden, in June 1972, placed environmental protection on the international agenda, and gathered political leaders from all over the world to consider the best approaches for achieving it. One of the major results of the Stockholm Conference was the creation of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), which, among other things, provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment.

To commemorate 50 years since the 1972 Stockholm Conference, the UN General Assembly, through its resolution 75/2801 of 24 May 2021, decided to convene an international meeting in Stockholm from 2-3 June 2022, to be hosted by the Governments of Sweden and Kenya, with support from UNEP and other partners. The General Assembly agreed on the theme of the meeting: “Stockholm+50: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity.” It also decided to organize multi-stakeholder discussions around the following “leadership dialogues”:

- Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all;
- Leadership Dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19); and
- Leadership Dialogue 3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

In addition to these Leadership Dialogues, the preparatory process for the Meeting included five regional multi-stakeholder consultations. The consultations brought together regional stakeholders, including youth, Indigenous Peoples, governments, and non-governmental organizations to, among other objectives:

- Give voice to and facilitate engagement of as large a number of stakeholders as possible;
- Ensure a bottom-up mapping of key elements and actions needed to safeguard the human environment in the 21st century in the context of each country’s and each region’s needs, including with respect to policies and actions required in those economic sectors that are most critical for sustainable development; and
- Review and assess how the human environment can be enhanced to help countries and regions attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The five regional consultations were organized by UNEP and the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs). The consultations were held virtually and were livestreamed. More than 2,000 participants joined the virtual consultations and many more followed the livestreams.

The five regional consultations convened as follows:

- The **Asia and the Pacific Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation** took place from 4-5 April 2022.
- The **Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation** was held from 5-6 April 2022.
- The **Africa Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation** was held from 12-13 April 2022.

- The **Europe and North America Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation** took place on 5 May 2022.
- The **West Asia Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation** took place from 11-12 May 2022.

This synthesis report highlights key recommendations coming out of the five regional multi-stakeholder consultations. The recommendations are organized by the themes of the S+50 leadership dialogues and by the high-impact sectors identified by the regions as priorities. A concluding section outlines some of the common recommendations that were highlighted in at least three of the regional consultations.

Key Recommendations from Leadership Dialogues and High-impact Sectors from Asia and the Pacific

Leadership Dialogue 1: “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all”

- Make sustainability, which is currently outside the curriculum, the purpose of education.
- Integrate and place a “sustainability purpose” at the core of politics, industry, and business, rather than making it an add-on or peripheral to the main goals and values.
- Shift to viewing nature not just as a carbon sink, as is often the case in the UN climate process, but rather as a unity of ecosystems.
- Incorporate nature-based solutions in national action plans and financing schemes.
- Provide financial support or economic rewards to Indigenous Peoples for their knowledge and work as guardians of nature.
- Provide support to scientists from developing countries to participate in global meetings.



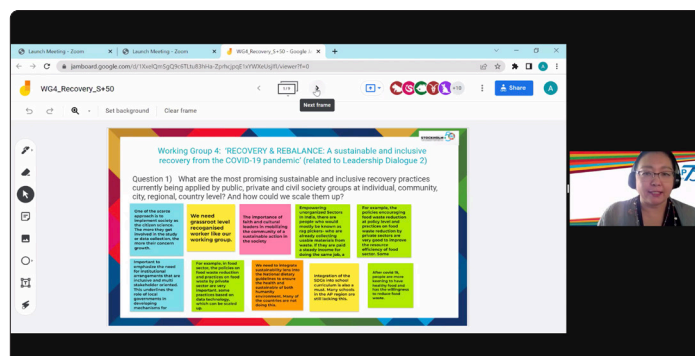
Theresa Mundita S Lim-ACB

Co-facilitator of the Working Group on Leadership Dialogue 1, **Theresa Mundita Lim**, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

- Endorse international human rights instruments in domestic legislation to safeguard the rights of people and nature.
- Criminalize the destruction of nature as “ecocide.”
- Track progress towards a healthier planet using a happiness index, since this incorporates aspects like health and wellbeing that goes beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Leadership Dialogue 2: “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: A sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”

- Expand opportunities for citizen science and leverage new data technologies, such as machine learning and digital mapping systems to tackle key environmental issues.
- Increase digital access, especially among those located in remote and isolated communities to close the digital gap.
- Use green financing incentives and increase development finance for disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- Strengthen capacity development, innovation, and access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Recognize the role of faith-based organizations and cultural leaders in mobilizing community actions.
- Promote community forestry and other nature-based solutions as a means of improving livelihoods.
- Integrate the SDGs as well as green business training into school curricula to better engage with young people on sustainability issues.
- Promote decentralized governance systems that prioritize multi-stakeholder dialogue and “people-centered” development to ensure no one is left behind.
- Divest from fossil fuels and support the expansion of renewable energy.

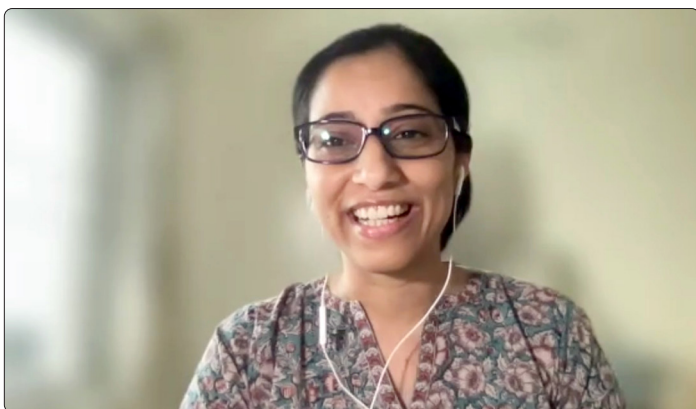


Co-facilitator of the Working Group on Leadership Dialogue 2, **Aida Karazhanova**, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, introduces answers in the jamboard to the question on recovery and rebalance.

- Use carbon pricing tools, such as smart contract platforms, for mitigating emissions.
- Shift away from linear systems of production and consumption and move towards circular economy, starting with progressively phasing out single-use items.

Leadership Dialogue 3: “RENEWAL: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development”

- Empower Indigenous Peoples, including through free, prior, and informed consent.
- Mobilize resources, which are currently inadequate, to respond to the needs of local populations.
- Prioritize the involvement of young people who are eager to take action, empower them, and value their opinions.
- Promote and scale agricultural practices already in place in Asia, including by focusing on locally-based food sovereignty and strengthening local communities’ ties to nature.
- Establish legislation and metrics, such as on circular economy and waste management, which allow the government to take regular action on the issues, and enable citizens to use laws to hold the government accountable.
- Conduct systematic data collection and monitoring since many targets and indicators do not have reliable data, and promote digitalization.
- Recognize differences in public and private finance, look at how wealth is taxed, and challenge the assumption that the private sector is the solution.
- Support countries that are dependent on fossil fuel revenue and need to transition away.
- Adopt a “whole-of-government approach”, prioritizing three sectors – health, environment, and education.



Co-facilitator of the Working Group on Leadership Dialogue 3 **Pooja Rangaprasad**, Society for International Development

- Foster cooperation and partnerships which are led and centered on people, are more collaborative, and account for those currently left behind.

High-impact sector: “End plastic pollution for a healthy planet and wellbeing”

- Continue the strong political commitment and good momentum in the Asia-Pacific region on reducing plastic waste and position the region as a leader in helping to mainstream the issue.
- Engage brand owners to play a role in reducing plastic consumption by spreading the message and influencing consumer behavior towards creating a circular economy and reinforcing positive beliefs among customers.
- Label plastic products in the same way that cigarettes are labeled as “harmful to your health” to further incentivize reduced consumption of such products.
- Further mainstream an extended producer responsibility approach, which adds all lifecycle costs of a product to its market price, to help realize the circular economy.
- Harmonize efforts within government for maximum and efficient utilization of the expected significant funding and support for plastic pollution prevention.
- Communicate proposed regulations to the public well in advance as ambition continues to rise towards a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.
- Remember that the circular economy should refer to a “localized” circular economy, so that plastic waste is not just shipped to other countries.
- Price unnecessary disposable plastic products, such as cutlery, at a higher rate to discourage use.



Yasuhiko Hotta, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, co-facilitator of the session, “End plastic pollution for a healthy planet and wellbeing”

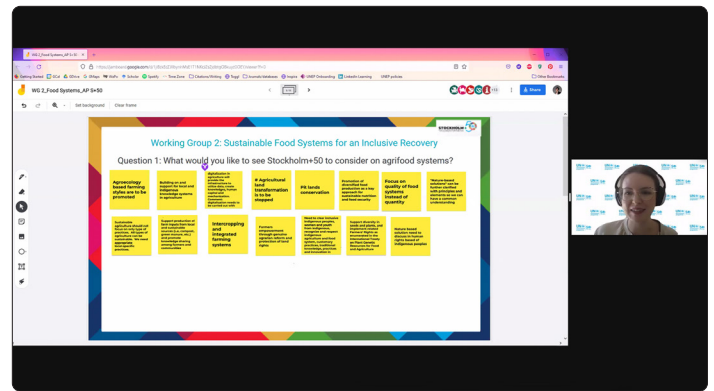
High-impact sector: “Sustainable food systems for an inclusive recovery”

- Promote agroecology-based farming systems building on and supporting local and indigenous knowledge systems in agriculture.
- Develop key standards and use tracking software to ensure supply chains are sustainable, and markets and producers are connected.
- Improve infrastructure to reduce food loss, and harness digital technologies for smarter food production and transport.
- Provide real alternatives to pesticide use.
- Harness good practices that have come out of the pandemic, such as urban gardening and farming, and promote food production in communities and households.
- Ensure that disaster risk reduction frameworks are aimed at keeping food production systems resilient so they can recover from disasters.
- Label fast food, indicating the high levels of sugar, salt, and fat, and consider choice editing to encourage healthier diets.
- Create a mechanism to work with both “indigenous science” and modern science.
- Incentivize the greening of SMEs by defining what would constitute a green job, including a set of criteria.
- Validate and promote local seeds, knowledge, and practices.
- Ensure that small-scale farmers are part of the solution and that their productivity is also raised.

Key Recommendations from Leadership Dialogues and High-impact Sectors from Latin America and the Caribbean

Leadership Dialogue 1: “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all”

- Adopt sustainable practices and lifestyles.
- Promote circularity and reuse policies and practices in business.
- Ensure that restoration policies and programmes generate socioeconomic benefits for local populations, such as food security, employment, and income opportunities.
- Ensure active and meaningful participation of “culturally relevant” groups, such as women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, in decision-making processes.
- Reinforce the role of environmental justice.

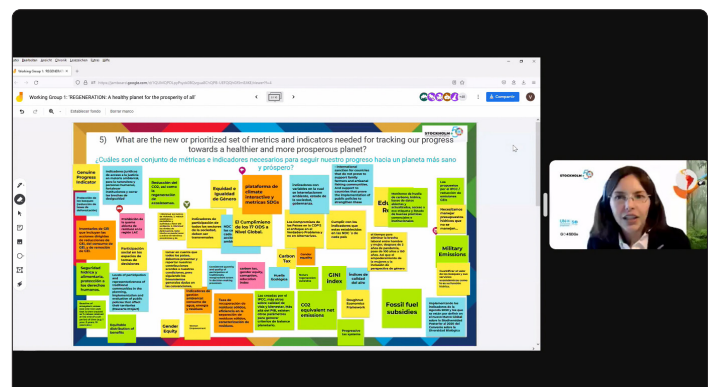


Marci Rose Baranski, UNEP, co-facilitator of the session on “Sustainable food systems for an inclusive recovery,” introduces answers in the jamboard to the question on agrifood systems.

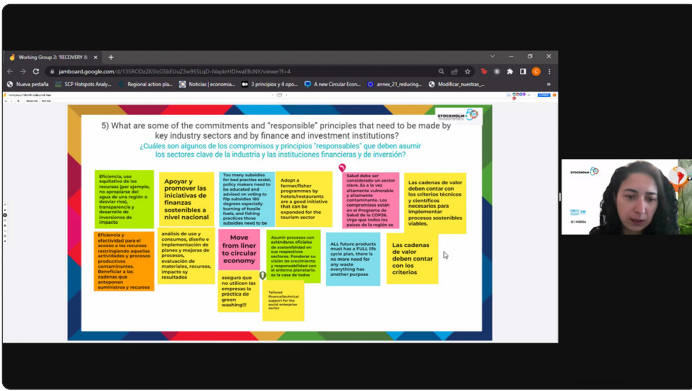
- Distribute benefits equitably and acknowledge marginalized groups such as Indigenous women.
- Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies.
- Improve the levels of participation and representation of traditional communities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public policies that affect their territories.
- Promote a more harmonious relationship with nature, integrating indigenous knowledge and rights, as well as different narratives.

Leadership Dialogue 2: “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Reset”

- Support SMEs to improve their access to finance and innovation, to use formal business practices such as digitalization and banking, and help them integrate into a more circular economy.
- Implement better resource management through the deployment of technology.
- Restructure value chains in production considering environmental and social impacts.
- Reduce jobs in sectors such as unsustainable agriculture and fossil fuel extraction and



Marianna Leite, ACT Alliance Brazil, co-facilitator of the session, “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all,” manages the online jamboard featuring answers received in response to the Working Group questions.



Carolina Ferreira, International Labour Organization, co-facilitator of the session, “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Reset,” manages online participation in the jamboard.

related activities, and create green jobs for youth in the region.

- Strengthen participatory mechanisms in decision making and social protection to support populations going through the effects of the pandemic.
- Create new processes that can replace the use of plastics and fossil fuels.
- Strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation on knowledge and technology transfer.

Leadership Dialogue 3: “RENEWAL: Cooperation to accelerate action”

- Recognize the need for different approaches in Latin America and the Caribbean that would address the lack of access to technologies, insecurity and mortality of environmental leaders, the lack of access to public environmental funds, increased inequality, and a recession in learning and development opportunities.
- Reconsider what constitutes the right to development.
- Promote greater UN outreach with local grassroots organizations.
- Foster partnerships and support for people at the local level in advocating on environmental issues.
- Provide paid UN internships for youth.
- Provide opportunities for young scientists in decision-making processes to facilitate more environmentally friendly development practices.
- Ensure access to technology that bridges gaps between people and sectors and helps communities.
- Create mechanisms to ensure accountability and a greater role for women.
- Promote strong and transparent public policy to support and protect the lives of those who lead social, environmental, and sociopolitical change.



Lorena Terrazas, Red Pazinde, co-facilitator of the session, “RENEWAL: Cooperation to accelerate action”

- Ensure environmental education that is inclusive of all types of people, and support a lifelong learning approach, promoting an environmentally responsible culture.

High-impact sector: “Small island developing States (SIDS) for Stockholm+50”

- Provide access to technology and finance to SIDS to implement proposed solutions for issues such as climate change.
- Invest in nature-based solutions and green infrastructure in marine environments.
- Recognize traditional fishing and farming practices, and support artisanal fishermen and women.
- Include traditional knowledge in relevant policymaking.
- Promote a shift towards a low-emission economy, recognizing that many states do not possess the means to move away from fossil fuels.
- Implement blue economy and circular economy models.
- Implement effective waste management measures and shift to more sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Ensure recognition of the rights of nature.
- Create a SIDS science-policy-business platform.



Nicole Leotaud, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, co-facilitator of the session on “SIDS for Stockholm+50”



Luisa Santiago, Latin America Lead, Ellen McArthur Foundation, co-facilitator of the session on “Circularity”

High-impact sector: “Circularity”

- Incorporate reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling into product supply chains and apply a life cycle perspective for products.
- Implement circular economy principles and modify human behavior to focus on common wellbeing and environmental protection.
- Involve SMEs in circular supply chains.
- Provide education on circular economy, including for people outside the formal economy.
- Use traditional knowledge, identify local skills, and create jobs.
- Encourage reforms in the mining sector, in particular towards a circular economy.

High-impact sector: “Financing Sustainability”

- Achieve transparency, inclusion, and diversification of opportunities for all.
- Create a business framework for small and medium players to have access to sustainable finance and climate funds.
- Develop better and appropriate taxonomies.



Speakers of the session on “Financing Sustainability,” clockwise from left: Session co-facilitator **Eric Usher**, Head, UNEP Finance Initiative (FI); **Maria Eugenia Sosa Taborda**, UNEP FI; Session co-facilitator **Andrea Suarez**, Banco Popular, Colombia; and **Fabiana Menna**, President, Fundación Gran Chaco

- Discuss cancelling the debt of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to enable a fair shift to sustainable financing.
- Mainstream climate change considerations in national planning/budgeting.
- Provide incentives for the private sector to scale up green financing.
- Implement the polluter-pays principle.
- Implement best practices in accordance with local characteristics.
- Engage in dialogue with civil society to build trust.
- Promote process transparency.

Key Recommendations from Leadership Dialogues and High-impact Sectors from Africa

Leadership Dialogue 1: “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all”

- Support education on conservation, climate literacy, and sustainable development for local communities, children, and vulnerable groups.
- Increase domestic climate finance and investment in disaster risk reduction.
- Support community-based adaptation, ecosystem-based adaptation, private sector involvement in nature restoration efforts, and incentive-driven landscape restoration.
- Adopt sustainable agricultural practices, which are key for climate resilience.
- Undertake environmental restoration research to fill gaps in restoration efforts and promote evidence-based policies.
- Promote nature-based solutions and provide vulnerable groups with financial incentives when they engage in sustainable management practices.
- Safeguard the rights of nature, Indigenous Peoples (including indigenous land ownership rights), local communities, environmental



Makoma Lekalakala, Earthlife Africa, co-facilitator of the session, “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all”

defenders, women, and youth by entrenching them into law, supported by strong policies and implementation measures.

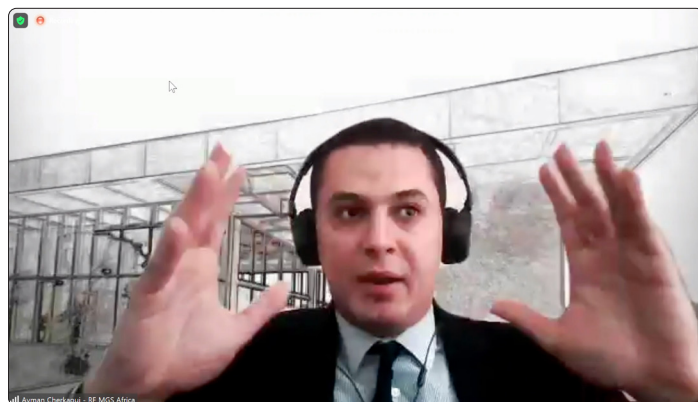
- Integrate local and traditional knowledge into national value systems.
- Promote Indigenous Peoples' rights, including indigenous land ownership rights.

Leadership Dialogue 2: “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Achieving sustainable and inclusive recovery through the African Green Stimulus Programme”

- Prioritize youth engagement at the grassroots level, empower them to make changes in their daily lifestyles, and improve environmental curricula in schools and universities to increase awareness of challenges and solutions.
- Scale up promising initiatives in the region, taking into account risk and trust, and identifying potential problems and unexpected liabilities.
- Build trust in local populations by involving them and the most vulnerable in decision making and policy implementation, and connect communities to national and regional plans, including by identifying community benefits in the Africa Green Stimulus Programme.
- Recognize that business and profit cannot come at the expense of human development, health, and rights, for instance, by training the existing workforce to participate in green jobs and demanding that the private sector and financial institutions become advocates for the SDGs.
- Improve access to finance among women and youth who may have difficulty obtaining loans to start or expand businesses, especially in agriculture and agricultural processing.



Stuart Mangold, South Africa Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, co-facilitator of the session, “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Achieving sustainable and inclusive recovery through the African Green Stimulus Programme”



Ayman Cherkaoui, Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, co-facilitator of the session, “RENEWAL: Cooperation and finance to accelerate action”

Leadership Dialogue 3: “RENEWAL: Cooperation and finance to accelerate action”

- Engage affected communities in the process of fundraising, so that they provide information on what benefits them.
- Establish a transparent information-sharing system that integrates traditional knowledge with modern technology and takes action to reduce or prevent a digital transformation gap.
- Set up targeted green/environmental funds and facilities, for example, by helping commercial banks to get Green Climate Fund accreditation.
- Build technical expertise among financiers on climate-resilient infrastructure such as roads.
- Build the capacity of small businesses to access finance and manage projects.
- Have a strong civil society to hold governments and business accountable and ensure compliance with human rights and environmental laws.
- Establish clear goals, targets, and monitoring schemes to measure progress.

High-impact sector: “Sustainable agrifood systems: Safeguarding productivity and ensuring access for all”

- Address post-harvest losses and waste, such as by investing in cold chains and good distribution systems, and promoting soil and water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and irrigation.
- Promote sustainable agriculture management, including through compulsory education on agroforestry, mixed farming, use of biofertilizers/manure, pastoralism, seed sharing, seed preservation, and permaculture.



Participants during the session, “Sustainable agrifood systems: Safeguarding productivity and ensuring access for all.” Clockwise from left: Session co-facilitators **Mohamed Tawfic Ahmed**, Faculty of Agriculture, Suez Canal University, and **Baldwyn Torto**, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology; and **David Rubia**, UNEP

- Educate the public on the need to avoid sugary and fatty foods, and limit marketing of unhealthy foods, especially to children, while promoting consumption of traditional and local foods, such as insects, which are nutrient rich.
- Strengthen laws and regulations that govern food safety and quality, implement special free-trade agreements for agricultural products, and implement transdisciplinary, transboundary, and regional mapping exercises.
- Create opportunities in ecosystem restoration, which is important for biodiversity, climate, and food systems because it supports soil rejuvenation, water quality, and pollination.
- Secure the land rights of smallholders and allow for the use of the “commons,” for instance, in pastoralism, where livestock can be moved across the landscape.
- Promote and invest in innovative technology for healthy food processing and leverage information technology to improve access to extension services and meteorological information.
- Entrench indigenous knowledge in sustainable agricultural food systems.

High-impact sector: “Circular economy: Scaling up action in high impact sectors”

- Create a “fair-trade market” across the globe, ensuring any restrictions are fair.
- Create ecological industrial parks for all sectors that advance sector-based partnerships to see to scaling up through sharing best practices (both South-South and North-South).
- Provide better knowledge about the science behind the circular economy, to capture the interests of business and people.



Bonmwa Fwangkwai, African Circular Economy Alliance, co-facilitator of the session, “Circular economy: Scaling up action in high impact sectors”

- Align traditional sciences and indigenous knowledge with modern technology to further utilize local circular solutions.
- Establish enabling policy frameworks and uniform standards, build relevant infrastructure, and provide financial incentives.
- Undertake educational reforms with well-embedded circular economy concepts and themes.

Recommendations from Leadership Dialogues and High-impact Sectors from Europe and North America

Leadership Dialogue 1: “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all”

- Establish an international crime of ecocide.
- Phase out fossil fuel subsidies globally.
- Shift subsidies from large-scale agriculture to smallholder agriculture.
- Respect indigenous agriculture and food systems.
- “Green” education and training to support the switch to sustainable and circular economies.



Sachsa Gabizon, Executive Director of Women in Europe for a Common Future and Co-Facilitator of the Women’s Major Group on the SDGs, co-facilitated the session, “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all.”

- Decouple growth from resources by promoting circular economy models, based on the [Sustainable Development Report 2021](#).
- Adopt a declaration on the rights of nature, which could be based on resolution 48/13 on the “human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,” adopted by the Human Rights Council in October 2021.
- Introduce better holistic scientific assessments, integrating both social and natural sciences, for planetary boundaries to better inform global governance.
- Deploy green digital solutions.
- Make the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment “implementable” at the national level.

Leadership Dialogue 2: “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: A sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”

- Implement disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework.
- Promote integrated approaches to addressing human rights and protection of the environment.
- Conduct a government stocktaking of COVID-19 responses.
- Support micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises in both the recovery from COVID-19 and embracing circular business models.
- Step up action on sustainable consumption and production and the circular economy.
- Ensure transparency of decisions, actions, financial flows, and accountability.
- Ensure gender-responsive budgeting and response plans.
- Align public spending with climate, biodiversity, and environmental policies and objectives.
- Implement comprehensive spatial development plans as the basis for sustainable local development.



Kaisha Atakhanova, Regional Development Advisor, Civil Society Development Association “ARGO,” co-facilitated the session, “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: A sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.”



Rie Tsutsumi, Regional Coordinator for Climate Change and Resource Efficiency, UNEP, manages online participation in the jamboard during the session, “RENEWAL: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.”

Leadership Dialogue 3: “RENEWAL: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development”

- Establish mechanisms to hold policymakers and states accountable for environmental harm and crimes.
- Grant debt amnesty to relevant countries.
- Earmark finance for environmental work.
- Scale down military spending.
- Adopt a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.
- Expand the International Criminal Court’s jurisdiction to include environmental crimes.
- Recognize the role of environmental defenders and whistleblowers and enhance their protection.
- Align capacity and technology with local needs and priorities, not with donor countries’ priorities.
- Undertake regenerative agriculture and promote a switch to plant-based food.
- Promote greater cooperation between faith-based organizations/groups and governments.

Recommendations from Leadership Dialogues and High-impact Sectors from West Asia

Leadership Dialogue 1: “REFLECTION: Urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all”

- Introduce mandatory environmental projects in schools, and environmental and climate science in educational curricula.
- Provide green funds for vulnerable countries and stakeholders and encourage sustainable financing models.



Fatema Frutan, UNEP Regional Facilitator for West Asia, Bahrain Women Association for Human Development, co-facilitated the session, “REFLECTION: Urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all.”

- Ensure social inclusion, which strengthens community participation and enables achievement of the SDGs.
- Revise organizational structures to include green jobs and green skills for youth to work in the environmental field.
- Provide payments for ecosystem services to those who “inhabit and protect the environment.”
- Invest in access to energy-efficient and climate-smart technologies for small producers in agrifood value chains.
- Stabilize and enhance the economy, enhance poverty eradication efforts, and provide housing to vulnerable groups while protecting their property and livelihoods.
- Establish a carbon pricing mechanism.
- Reduce toxic and other waste, including by making and enforcing relevant regulations.

Leadership Dialogue 2: “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus pandemic”

- Provide the Arab region with additional climate finance, in the form of grants, not loans.
- Promote circular economy models, such as e-recycling, which “makes business sense,” and can lead to the formation of new enterprises.
- Support sustainable mining efforts, by, *inter alia*, using local communities as partners in small-scale mining enterprises.
- Encourage the commercial and development sectors to work together to not only train the workforce on digital skills, but also provide needed jobs.
- Improve environmental legislative frameworks and policies and promote a circular economy



Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, co-facilitated the session, “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.”

- and environmental education and awareness raising.
- Focus on the renewable, clean energy and energy efficiency, agriculture and fisheries, and public health sectors, to enable an inclusive, green recovery from COVID-19 in the region.
- Ensure all new infrastructure projects have a “digital twin,” which would enable tracking of components of any new project or infrastructure to ensure they implement the circular economy through, for instance, reuse and recycling.

Leadership Dialogue 3: “Action: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development”

- Intensify environmental awareness campaigns as part of national efforts to achieve sustainability in comprehensive development projects.
- Promote environmental education, environmental justice, and commitment to stop environmental degradation.



Abdelmenam Mohamed, Regional Coordinator for Science, Regional Office for West Asia, UNEP, co-facilitated the session, “Action: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.”

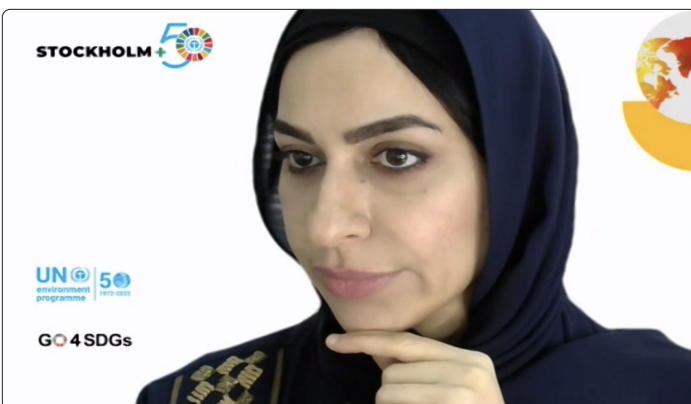


Natalia Boulad, International Union for Conservation of Nature, co-facilitated the session, “Action: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.”

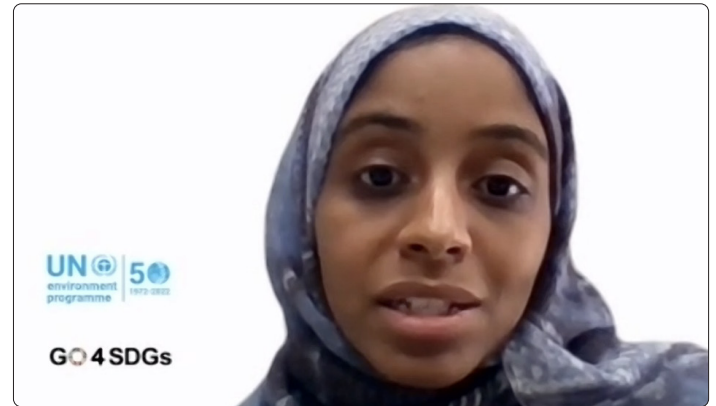
- Maximize the use of international funds and set up a unified portal to receive support and funding.
- Decentralize environmental decision making.
- Prepare the “legislative climate” to accommodate the requirements of sustainability.
- Stimulate the private sector to invest in implementing environmental interventions.
- Enable local communities to compete for project funding, including by raising awareness about available opportunities.
- Develop environmental and climate taxes and tax collection systems.

High-impact sector: “Zero plastic pollution: A time to change our behavior towards single-use plastic production, consumption, and disposal”

- Promote citizen engagement through calls to action to modify behavior and boost behavioral change.



Sumaya Yusuf Hasan, Chairperson, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain, co-facilitated the session, “Zero plastic pollution: A time to change our behavior towards single-use plastic production, consumption, and disposal.”



Farah Shawqi Al-Barwani, Research and Development Manager, Be’ah, Oman, co-facilitated the session, “Zero plastic pollution: A time to change our behavior towards single-use plastic production, consumption, and disposal.”

- Enact legislation enforcing circular economy models such as recycling and reuse.
- Encourage more regional engagement to form a “common front” and develop a common policy to guide the journey towards zero plastic pollution, such as a Gulf Cooperation Council-wide ban on single-use plastics.
- Ensure multi-stakeholder cooperation, supported by a regional office that hosts representatives from each country in the region.
- Target consumers who will make spending decisions based on their sustainability beliefs, for instance, by developing a “sustainable plastic or plastic-free” label.
- Provide government incentives for the private sector to invest in recycling technology.
- Prioritize environmentally sound end-of-waste policies and exclude disposal methods that create toxic emissions from plastics, such as incineration and waste-to-fuel practices.
- Designate marine protected areas for iconic species in the Gulf, such as whale sharks, dugongs, and turtles.

High-impact sector: “Addressing food waste: Impacts and opportunities”

- Promote data collection on food waste and establish a baseline to formulate impactful policies.
- Encourage donation to and use of food banks and conduct outreach to show that using food banks is not shameful.
- Promote use of the farm-to-table concept and encourage food purchases from local suppliers.
- Use technology to promote smart agriculture techniques and to encourage practices such as “food sharing.”



Wardah Mamukoya, Founder and Managing Director, Wahab, Qatar, co-facilitated the session, "Addressing food waste: Impacts and opportunities."

- Implement SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production.
- Ensure a proper transportation and storage network is in place for the food cold chain.
- Use policies and programmes to address food waste, including "nudge policies" that are low-cost and effective in reducing food waste.
- Establish community partnerships with all sectors of society, government, the private sector, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.
- Include food waste reduction and prevention strategies in national strategic planning.

A Global Outlook: Cross-Regional Recommendations

This section highlights some of the recommendations that were made in at least three of the regional consultations. It identifies which of the regional consultations made the recommendations: Asia and the Pacific (AP); Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); Africa (A); Europe and North America (ENA); or West Asia (WA). Some recommendations featured in all five regional consultations (all).

- Criminalize "**ecocide**" and protect environmental defenders (all).
- **Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies** globally and divert the funds to more sustainable sectors (AP, LAC, ENA) and **establish a carbon pricing** mechanism to internalize environmental costs (AP, LAC, WA).
- Recognize the **rights of nature** and enshrine these rights in domestic legislation and an international declaration (all).

- Adopt **new metrics that go beyond GDP**, such as a happiness index, human wellbeing or carbon footprint (all).
- Promote **sustainable finance and rational, efficient, and equitable investments to accelerate SDG implementation** (all) and provide financial support or rewards to Indigenous Peoples for their knowledge and work as guardians of nature (AP, LAC, A).
- **Promote the shift from a linear to a circular economy**, including by enacting laws to achieve environmental protection objectives, for instance, mandating implementation of circular economy models (all).
- **Respect and integrate indigenous** rights and knowledge, including in agriculture and food systems, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, such as their land rights (AP, LAC, A, ENA).
- Promote **digital transformation**, including the use of digital technologies, through training and digital access to local and remote populations (all).
- Promote **sustainable consumption and production patterns and facilitate sustainable lifestyles and behavioral change** towards the environment by reforming the education curricula to include training on climate change, sustainability, green business, green skills, and circular economy (all).
- **Prioritize and support SMEs**, by, for example, facilitating their use of formal business practices such as digitalization and banking, scaling up financial support, including blended finance, and incentivizing the greening of SMEs (all).
- **Promote healthy diets** by: shifting to plant-based diets; adopting a holistic approach, which upholds food security and empowers communities; labeling fast food, indicating sugar, salt, and fat levels; and raising awareness of the true cost of food and of environmental and social externalities of food production (AP, A, ENA, WA).
- **Address plastic pollution** by, for instance, banning single-use plastics, adopting technologies that enable going paperless and plastic free, labeling plastic products as "harmful to health," making consumers pay to use plastic bags rather than distributing them free, and incentivizing the private sector to invest in recycling technologies (AP, LAC, A, WA).