

UNESCO Statement at Stockholm+50 Plenary

UNESCO welcomes the convening of the Stockholm+50 international summit as well as the opportunity given to provide comments during this plenary.

UNESCO recognises the efforts and achievements of the United Nations system since the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. Since its creation 75 years ago, relying on its interdisciplinary mandates in the fields of education, natural, social, and human sciences, culture, communication and information, UNESCO promotes a holistic approach to environmental issues, addressing climate change and biodiversity loss together through science, education and cultural diversity.

UNESCO believes that it is determinant to consider science-based conservation of nature together with social, cultural, and economic systems and safeguard local and indigenous communities' social practices, cultural expressions, languages, and knowledge systems.

UNESCO wishes to reaffirm its support to the Member States, through its programming and its unique network of designated sites. These 1,154 World Heritage sites, 727 Biosphere Reserves, and 177 Global Geoparks are living territories where humans learn to live in harmony with nature and are already existing tools that the Member States should take ownership of to successfully implement international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Lima Action Plan, etc.

It is now time to scale up the efforts of the last 50 years and accelerate our actions. UNESCO welcomes the UN Decades of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and for Ecosystem Restoration, which will be crucial in generating missing knowledge for restoration action and policy building. Within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UNESCO will lead the “*Our Humanature Pathways*” Panel, in close partnership with UNEP and FAO, which

will address core questions on humanity's role in establishing a healthy relationship with nature.

UNESCO is glad to have contributed to prepare the ground for UN-system collaboration on the Global Biodiversity Framework through the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and to co-chair the IMG on Biodiversity with UNDP and UNEP. The IMG continues and expands the work of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity which prepared the report *Supporting The Global Biodiversity Agenda*, providing information on the relevance of biodiversity to the mandates, activities and programmes of all EMG members.

UNESCO is therefore fully committed to leading the way towards the development of a new ethic of living in harmony with nature, to reconstruct our relationship with the living, and to rethink our system of values towards the reconciliation of all humans with each other and with the rest of the living fabric of the planet.

Thank you.