Environment Management Group High-level Dialogue:

Strengthening UN system Climate Action in support of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28)
2 December 2023, 15:00-16:00 @ UNEP Pavilion (Blue Zone)

An EMG-hosted high-level event at COP28

Introduction

Climate change imposes mounting challenges on both humanity and the natural world, amplifying hunger and affecting health, human rights, and equality. The inextricable connection between climate and nature is undeniable. As climate change accelerates biodiversity loss, ecosystems face immense strain, yet ecosystems also play a critical role in climate regulation, adaptation, and resilience. Consequently, safeguarding nature emerges as a pivotal element in the fight against climate change. Strengthening action on biodiversity and climate change under the UNFCCC process is expected to be a key component in achieving the vision of "living in harmony with nature by 2050". Enhancing climate resilience through the conservation and restoration of ecosystems is a priority of the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Furthermore, UNEP emissions gap reports find that the international community is falling far short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to 1.5°C in place. Only an urgent system-wide transformation can avoid climate disaster requiring collective and rapid action.

The United Nations (UN) has called for urgent, collective action and higher ambition to combat climate change, including through nature-based solutions that can play an important part in limiting global warming and in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. During COP28, Parties are expected to conclude the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, which will inform future climate action by Parties as well as international cooperation for climate action.

In this context, heads of UN entities will engage in a high-level Dialogue on joint messaging in which they will reflect on strengthening support, cooperation and solutions the UN system is offering Parties to the UNFCCC in terms of effective climate action and its interlinkages with other key areas of sustainable development, including in interagency settings, global advocacy, normative frameworks, regional collaboration, and national implementation.

Programme and format

The Dialogue will consist of an opening statement and a panel discussion divided into two parts among UN entity heads who will underscore the significance of UN climate action for the implementation of the SDGs and scaling up streamlined interagency efforts and partnerships in support of countries' efforts to implement the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

In their panel interventions, UN entity heads will be invited to take stock of their individual and collective actions supporting Parties with mitigation, adaptation, just transition, loss and damage, and the delivery of the means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

Panelists will have 1-2 minutes maximum each to share a key priority in response to the following questions. Time will be of the essence so please bring just the single most important issue to this part of the discussion.

- ***In the context of climate action, in what areas of work (e.g. financing, technology, capacity building, science, etc) is system-wide collaboration particularly important?***
- ***What challenges are UN entities experiencing in collaborating across these systems?***

In each panel we will then briefly explore what solutions the EMG can offer to support this.

The indicative programme of the Environment Management Group High-level Dialogue at COP28:

Moderated by Ms Gabrielle Walker, Co-founder of CUR8 and Rethinking Removals
Opening statement (7 minutes)
▪ Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chair of the EMG ▪ Mr Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Panel Discussion by entity heads of the UN system
Panel I (35 minutes)
1. Mr Selwin Charles Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition (TBC) **2. Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** **3. Ms Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)** 4. Ms Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) **5. Mr Daniele Violetti, Senior Director for Programme Coordination, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** **6. Mr Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** **7. Ms Zoritsa Urosevic, Executive Director, The World Tourism Organization of the United Nations (UNWTO)** **8. Ms Ghada Waly, Executive Director, UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNOCD)** 9. Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

10. Mr Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) **11. Ms Valerie Hickey, Global Director for Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy, The World Bank** **12. Mr Sujit Mohanty, Chief of Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Cooperation and Partnerships Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** **13. Ms Edel Guenther, Director, United Nations University (UNU) Flores** 14. Ms Angela Baschieri, Population Dynamics Policy Advisor, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) **15. Ms Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)** 16. **Mr Gautam Narasimhan, UNICEF Global Lead for Climate, Energy and Environment, & Ms Paloma Escudero, UNICEF Global Special Adviser to Advocate for Children and Climate Action, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**
Panel II (35 minutes)
1. Ms Dena Assaf, United Nations Resident Coordinator for United Arab Emirates 2. Mr Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) 3. Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) 4. Ms Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC) 5. Mr Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Director of Priority Action Programme, The International Labour Organization (ILO) **6. Ms Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice President, Strategy and Knowledge, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** **7. Mr Gernot Laganda, Director of Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Service, World Food Programme (WFP)** **8. Mr Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO** **9. Ms Dalila Hamou, Director, External Relations Division, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** 10. Ms Dora Benedek, Chief Climate Policy Division, International Monetary Fund (IMF) **11. Ms Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** **12. Ms Aarti Holla-Maini, Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** 13. Mr Siva Somasundram, Director of Policy, Regulations & Markets, Universal Postal Union (UPU) 14. Mr Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 15. Ms Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Chief of the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 16. Mr Benjamin Schachter, Senior Representative, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) **17. Ms Xenya Scanlon, Chief of Communications, External Relations and Partnerships, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**
Closing remarks – way forward (3 minutes)

Expected outcomes of the Dialogue

The Dialogue will share common messages by the UN system on its support to Member States and opportunities for improved inter-agency collaboration. The key messages of the round table will inform

the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group (EMG) on ways to enhance system wide collaboration and rallying efforts in bridging the gaps and scaling up coherent UN system-wide support to climate action and strengthening synergies of climate, nature and pollution agenda in interagency settings to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the wider sustainable development agenda. The discussion may inform and inspire shared interagency action by all in the light of the renewed NDCs in 2025 to expedite and enhance coherent UN support to Member States in local, regional and global mobilization for action.