

High-Level Roundtable Event

"Strengthening Action for Change: Synergistic Solutions to the Climate Crisis, Nature Loss, Desertification, and Pollution"

A High-Level Roundtable Event for Heads and Senior Officials of United Nations Agencies to feed into the High-Level Segment of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16)

Date: Monday 28th October 2024

Time: 18:00 – 19:30 COT

Venue: Sumapaz Room

Format: In-person

Organizers: *United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

Background

The [Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties](#) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD COP 16) will centre around the message "[Peace with Nature](#)" highlighting the need to improve the relationship between humans and ecosystems.

In addition, this year's conference marks the first major opportunity for Member States to take stock of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF) since its adoption in December 2022. The Conference will focus on reviewing implementation, including exploring how parties have aligned and updated their [National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#) (NBSAPs) to the framework, and advance resource mobilization in support of the GBF¹.

Since the adoption of the GBF, the United Nations system has committed to leveraging its collective strength to support Member States in implementing the Framework. This commitment is expressed and operationalised through the [United Nations Common Approach to Biodiversity](#) (Common Approach), a strategic framework designed to integrate, build-upon and connect biodiversity considerations across the policies, programmes and operations of United Nations entities at global, regional and national levels.

Further to coordinating efforts under the Common Approach, the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) is committed to supporting the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and strengthening collaborative action in the United Nations system to effectively, holistically and synergistically address the triple planetary crises. This work is particularly relevant in the context of the Conferences of the Parties of the three Rio Conventions taking place in 2024², calls by Member States to strengthen synergies and collaboration among MEAs and the UN system, and the recent partnership between the host

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024/cop-16/documents>

² [CBD COP16](#): 21 October - 1 November (Cali, Colombia), [UNFCCC COP29](#): 11-22 November (Baku, Azerbaijan), [UNCCD COP16](#): 2-13 December (Saudi Arabia)

countries of the aforementioned COPs to form the [Rio Trio Initiative](#)³- launched to stimulate synchronized action and resource allocation to achieve more effective and impactful outcomes.

Against this background, a High-Level Roundtable will bring Heads and Senior Officials of United Nations entities and MEA Secretariats together to discuss efficient pathways, experiences and opportunities towards enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of MEAs in a holistic and integrated manner. The Roundtable discussions will relate to the context of making “Peace with Nature” and the GBF’s [2050 Vision](#) – “Living in harmony with nature”⁴, through the lens of the Common Approach objectives on human rights, peaceful societies and planetary stability, building on the outcome of previous events such as the [Bern III Conference](#) and the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

The Roundtable will result in a summary of perspectives on how the United Nations system can further strengthen its collective response to effectively support and address Member States’ needs. Furthermore, the event is expected to lead to a set of suggestions with a view to encourage the adoption of mutually supportive decisions by the Conferences of the Parties of the three Rio Conventions in support of MEA synergies and cooperation with the United Nations system and other international organizations. Finally, the key discussion points regarding the messages of “Peace with Nature” and “Living in Harmony with Nature” will inform a Ministerial Breakfast hosted by the Government of Colombia and the CBD Secretariat on 29 October.

Agenda

Time	Events	Speaker
5 min	Introduction	Moderator
5 min	Opening remarks	Ms. Inger Andersen (TBC) Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director of UNEP, and EMG Chair
60 min	Moderated interactive roundtable discussion with guiding questions	A panel of Heads and Senior Officials of United Nations agencies
15 min	Q&A	Panellists & participants
5 min	Closing remarks and summary of key points	Executive Secretary of the CBD (TBC)

Suggested guiding questions for the Roundtable discussion:

- What efficient pathways, experiences and opportunities can be taken towards enhancing cooperation and synergies that contribute to the messages of making “Peace with Nature” and the GBF’s [2050 Vision](#) – “Living in harmony with nature”?
- What three key actions can the UN system take to enhance support for Member States in accelerating their commitments to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and ensuring timely progress in implementing actions that support the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)?

³ The recently launched Rio Trio Initiative is a pioneering partnership between the Governments of Azerbaijan, Colombia, and Saudi Arabia that aims to foster global sustainability efforts by aligning the work of the presidencies of the three Rio Conventions to catalyse urgent and coordinated action.

⁴ The vision of the GBF is a world of living in harmony with nature where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”