

## Concept Note

# High-Level Roundtable Discussion

## "Strengthening Action for Change: Promoting Coherence and Scaling Up Support to Address Climate Change"

**A roundtable discussion for Heads of UN entities and MEA Secretariats at the High-Level Segment of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**Date:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (HLS)

**Time:** 17:00 – 18:30 AZT

**Venue:** Special Event Room 1, Blue Zone

**Format:** In-person

**Organizers:** *United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*

### Background

The [twenty-ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties](#) (COP29) to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) will convene in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan with the vision of enhancing ambition and enabling action on climate change.

Ahead of this year's Conference, the [COP Presidencies Troika](#)<sup>1</sup> launched the '[Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C](#)' to enhance international cooperation and ambition in the next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), aiming to keep 1.5°C within reach. The roadmap guides this and next year's COPs, with COP29 focusing on assessing the barriers to NDC development and reviewing the support required to ensure NDCs can deliver just climate transitions aligned with the [1.5°C goal](#).

A central theme of COP29 will be the imperative of fostering collaborative networks and demonstrate leadership for complementary action. In this context, COP29 will contribute towards strengthening the synergies between and the coordination of the [Rio Conventions](#) to better address the intertwined crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation that can only be resolved through synchronised action. It will build on the recently launched [Rio Trio Initiative](#) - 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.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> '[The COP Presidencies Troika](#)' unites the Presidencies of the 2023, 2024, and 2025 UN Climate Change Conferences to drive ambitious collective climate action.

At their 30<sup>th</sup> meeting in October 2024, the Senior Officials of the EMG agreed to consider a possible contribution by the EMG to the Climate Action Agenda, focussing on synergies and integration with other agendas including those of biodiversity, pollution and land degradation.

### **Roundtable Overview**

Against this backdrop, this high-level roundtable will bring together Heads of UN entities and MEA Secretariats to explore opportunities to strengthen coordination and collaboration within the UN system, including through the EMG, with a focus on:

- Strengthening support for synergistic and coherent implementation of MEAs at the national level
- Maximizing collective impact and policy coherence

By aligning strategies and fostering synergies, the UN can improve implementation of environmental policies and agreements and more effectively address global environmental challenges.

Building on the outcome of the [high-level roundtable discussion](#) held at the [sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties](#) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD COP 16) on 28 October 2024, this roundtable will result in a summary of perspectives on enhancing cooperation across UN agencies to better support Member States in the implementation of MEAs. It is also expected to generate recommendations for strengthening synergies between the Rio Conventions and the broader UN system. These recommendations will encourage mutually supportive decisions by the COPs of the Rio Conventions, reinforcing partnerships and commitments toward implementing [Action 10 of the Pact for the Future](#)<sup>2</sup>, achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), and elevating the visibility of the UN's environmental efforts. Finally, the roundtable will provide valuable feedback and insights to inform future UN strategies and actions, supporting a more cohesive and impactful global response to environmental issues.

### **Guiding questions**

- How can the UN system improve its support to Member States in implementing the climate agenda in a way that integrates biodiversity and land degradation efforts?
- What efficient pathways, experiences and opportunities can be taken towards enhancing cooperation and synergies in addressing the triple planetary crisis? What could a possible contribution by the EMG be in support of the climate agenda?

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<sup>2</sup> Pact for the Future – Action 10: We will accelerate our efforts to restore, protect, conserve and sustainably use the environment.

## Agenda

Total Duration: 90min

Time	Events	Speaker
10 min	Opening and welcoming remarks	<b>Ms. Inger Andersen (by video message)</b> , Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director of UNEP, and EMG Chair <b>Mr. Achim Steiner</b> , Administrator, UNDP (TBC)
70 min	Panel discussion with Heads and Senior Officials of UN entities	
5 min	Summary and key take aways	<b>Mr. Hossein Fadaei</b> , Head of the EMG Secretariat
5 min	Closing remarks and summary of key points	<b>Mr. Simon Stiell</b> , Executive Secretary, UNFCCC (TBC)

Moderated by Ms. Dechen Tsering, Director a.i, Climate Change Division, UNEP

## Panellists

Org.	Name	Position
<b>CBD</b>	Ms. Astrid Schomaker	Executive Secretary
<b>IFAD</b>	Mr. Alvaro Lario	President
<b>ITC</b>	Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton	Executive Director
<b>ITU</b>	Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas	Deputy Secretary-General
<b>RCO Azerbaijan</b>	Ms. Vladanka Andreeva	Resident Coordinator
<b>UN Youth Office</b>	Mr. Felipe Paullier	Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
<b>UNCCD</b>	Ms. Andrea Meza	Deputy Executive Secretary
<b>UNCDF</b>	Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya	Executive Secretary
<b>UNDP</b>	Mr. Achim Steiner	Administrator
<b>UNECA</b>	Mr. Claver Gatete	Executive Secretary
<b>UNECE</b>	Ms. Tatiana Molcean	Executive Secretary
<b>UNIDO</b>	Mr. Ciyong Zou	Deputy Director-General
<b>UNOOSA</b>	Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini	Director
<b>UNOPS</b>	Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva	Executive Director
<b>World Bank</b>	Ms. Valerie Hickey	Global Director for Environment

## Discussants:

- Ms. Rania Ahmed, Climate Action Director, IOM
- Ms. Luz María de la Mora Sanchez, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
- Mr. Gernot Laganda, Director, Climate & Resilience Service, WFP
- Mr. Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO
- Mr Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Director AP/Just Transitions, ILO
- Mr Kaveh Zahedi, Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO
- Ms. Dalila Hamou, Director, External Relations Division, WIPO
- Ms. Jane Hupe, Deputy Director, Environment, ICAO
- Mr. Greg Puley, Head of the Climate Team, OCHA
- Mr. Benjamin Schachter, Leader of the OHCHR Environment and Climate Change Unit, OHCHR
- Ms. Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief of Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity Development Branch, UNDRR
- Mr. Mark Manly, Head of Governmental Relations, UNHCR
- Mr. Houssam Chahin, Chief of Climate Financing, UNHCR
- Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Chief, Economic Empowerment, UN Women