

Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives
3 July 2025
Online meeting

Agenda item 2 (d): Leadership and multistakeholder dialogues

This note, entitled “*Leadership Dialogues of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly*”, has been developed by the Secretariat for the consideration of and possible guidance by the Bureaux of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, under agenda item 2 (d) (Leadership and multistakeholder dialogues), at the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to be held online on 3 July 2025. The note contains concept notes for each of the three leadership dialogues, including the themes for the three dialogues.

Leadership Dialogues of the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Focus of the three Leadership Dialogues

Leadership Dialogue 1

An Ounce of Prevention Beats a Ton of Cure: Advancing Resilience for Human Health

Thursday, 11 December 2025, from 3 to 4.30 p.m. EAT

Leadership Dialogue 2

Circular by design: Innovating industry for a healthy planet

Friday, 12 December 2025, from 10 to 11.30 a.m. EAT

Leadership Dialogue 3

Finance Forward: Catalyzing Resilience for Life on Earth

Friday, 12 December 2025, from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. EAT

Format of the three Leadership Dialogues

Moderated panel discussion, followed by an interactive discussion led by the Moderator focusing on the guiding questions and the panel discussion. The moderator will conclude the dialogue with brief closing remarks on main messages emanating from the discussions to be presented at the closing plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly.

An Ounce of Prevention Beats a Ton of Cure: Advancing Resilience for Human Health

Leadership Dialogue 1

Thursday, 11 December 2025 from 3 to 4.30 p.m. EAT

Conference Room 1, UNON, Nairobi

Introduction

This concept note outlines the Leadership Dialogue on **actions to advance resilience for human health outcomes**, scheduled for Thursday, 11 December 2025, from 15:00 to 16:30 pm EAT. The dialogue will provide a platform for ministers and other participants to explore how environmental action can strengthen health resilience in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation and drought, pollution in all its forms, and other environmental stressors. A central focus will be on **shifting from reactive responses to proactive, preventative strategies** that reduce environmental degradation and its associated health impacts.

Scope and Interlinkage

- This dialogue will focus on the environmental determinants of health and the role of environmental governance in securing healthy and resilient populations. It will emphasize the need to prevent environmental degradation at its source—through pollution control, climate mitigation and ecosystem conservation—rather than merely addressing its consequences.
- The session will also explore the transformations needed in economic and financial systems to support this shift, including the internalization of environmental and health externalities, realignment of subsidies and incentives, and the adoption of sustainable finance frameworks that prioritize long-term well-being over short-term gains.

Guiding Questions

1. How can environmental policies and actions strengthen resilience in human health and prioritize prevention over cure?
2. What policy solutions are needed in economic and financial systems to support preventative environmental action and health co-benefits?
3. What partnerships and innovations are needed to scale up action to yield multiple dividends at the environment-health nexus?

Expected Outcomes

- An understanding of the interlinkages between environmental and human health.
- Identification of policy priorities and good practices for integrated, preventative action.
- Enhanced collaboration between environment, health, economic planning and high impact sectors.

Contact Details

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Circular by design: Innovating industry for a healthy planet

Leadership Dialogue 2

Friday, 12 December 2025 from 10 to 11.30 a.m. EAT

Conference Room 1, UNON, Nairobi

Introduction

This concept note outlines the Leadership Dialogue on **actions to advance resilience for circular industries**, scheduled for Friday, 12 December 2025, from 10 to 11.30 a.m. EAT.

- Currently, there is a projected 60% increase in global resource consumption by 2060—responsible for 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions, over 90% biodiversity impacts¹, and 40% of pollution² (Global Resources Outlook 2024).
- This dialogue will explore what circular economy policies and business actions are needed to enhance competitiveness and deliver multiple solutions to the three planetary environmental crises of climate change; biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation and drought; and pollution and waste across the life cycle.

Scope and Interlinkages

- This dialogue will explore how to use materials, more sustainably through the lens of the energy transition and build resilience in sectors such as textiles and plastics by accelerating circularity. North-South dynamics will be addressed, including unequal infrastructure and technology access that hinder circularity in the Global South.
- The shift to low-carbon energy—such as solar, wind, and electric vehicles—is increasing demand for minerals like lithium and cobalt, raising environmental, social, and supply chain risks. This has significant risks for industry and the economies that depend on such stabilities. The dialogue will explore how circular value chains can reduce these impacts through responsible mining, secondary raw materials, recycling, and fairer markets.
- Rising textile demand intensifies resource use, waste, and pollution, while the plastics sector presents parallel challenges across its lifecycle. Addressing these requires public-private action to eliminate unnecessary waste, promote reuse and recycling, product design, safer chemical use, and harmonised policies as drivers of systemic change—requiring cooperation across the full lifecycle of materials, measures to enable transparency, and initiatives like the Global Circularity Protocol for Business.

Guiding questions

1. What policies, partnerships, and innovations are needed to build circular value chains that reduce environmental pressures, support livelihoods, and ensure the resilience of long-term resource supply?
2. What can we learn from policy makers that would be helpful to advance circularity approaches encouraging competitiveness whilst ensuring social equity.
3. What are the key linkages and take-aways for governments and business leaders in looking at resilience in industry, finance and human health?

Expected outcomes and call for action

- Deeper collaboration and partnership across the value chain.
- For policy makers to introduce a package of measure that enable circularity that creates jobs and growth as well as co-benefits for the environment. For business to work with the UN and others to champion bold, practical, and collaborative action to advance circularity across sectors where the opportunity is highest. For civil society to ensure robust social safeguards and increased transparency.

Contact details

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¹ Total land use related biodiversity loss and water stress

² Particulate matter health related impacts

Finance Forward: Catalyzing Resilience for Life on Earth

Leadership Dialogue 3

Friday, 12 December 2025 from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. EAT

Conference Room 1, UNON, Nairobi

Introduction

This concept note outlines the Leadership Dialogue on **actions to advance resilience in the context of finance**, scheduled for Friday, 12 December 2025, from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Dialogue aims to build on outcomes of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) to **illustrate the pivotal role of private finance for the transition to sustainable economies** to address climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation and drought, pollution and waste. Governments can deploy strategic policy frameworks, using tools such as fiscal innovation and science-based taxonomies, to optimize public and private finance for resilient financial and economic systems that safeguard human well-being and the environment. UNEP supports Members States on finance and economic policy and regulatory frameworks to align public and private finance with long-term development goals, this dialogue will highlight leading examples.

Scope and interlinkages

- Focus on how governments can provide the conditions to boost responsible financial practices and standards to support the long-term resilience of economies, society and the environment.
- Explore the whole-of-government approach applied to policy and regulatory frameworks to unlock private finance and align economies with sustainable development. Transformation of high-impact sectors requires sustainable finance policies and regulations alongside economic policies that catalyze business activity that contribute to a stable economy, society and planet.
- It will share good practices and innovation by finance ministries, banking, insurance and investment regulators, standard setters and rating agencies to create the conditions to finance sustainable economic growth, scaling up finance for pipelines of bankable projects that contribute to a healthy and inclusive economy, society and environment.
- It will look at how interoperable policy and regulatory frameworks across jurisdictions in developed and developing countries enable financial institutions to support transitions to resilient industries (Leadership Dialogue 2). It will examine how investments that contribute to pollution controls and protecting nature can enhance resilience in human health (Leadership Dialogue 1).

Guiding questions

1. How can environment ministries collaborate with finance and economic ministries and regulators to foster a whole-of-government approach to create the conditions for stable and sound economic and financial systems that contribute to a healthy planet and resilient society?
2. What are some examples of effective, system-wide approaches that governments are taking, supported by UNEP, to steer private finance towards transitioning businesses towards sustainable pathways to enhance economic resilience as well as addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation, drought, and pollution and waste for the resilience of life on earth?
3. What role can UNEP play to facilitate coherence across policy and regulatory frameworks and standards across jurisdictions, and what can private finance actors do to scale up finance for the transition to economy activities that contribute to social and environmental resilience?

Expected outcomes and call for action

Opportunities identified for environment ministries to tackle challenges through whole-of-government approaches, for Member States to deploy finance and economic frameworks to unlock private finance for resilient development, for UNEP to support coherent policymaking across jurisdictions, and for financial institutions to finance the transition of high-impact sectors towards sustainable development.

Contact details

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