

Special session on the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50)

3-4 March 2022

Concept Note for the High-Level Leadership Dialogues

I. Introduction

This draft concept note seeks to provide an initial overview on the organization of the High-Level Leadership Dialogues planned for the special session on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of UNEP (UNEP@50). Two Leadership Dialogues are proposed: Looking back (50 years of UNEP), and Looking forward (Achieving the 2030 Agenda for people and planet). The Leadership Dialogues will be held in hybrid format in Nairobi on 4th March 2022.

The UNEP@50 leadership dialogues aim to promote an interactive high-level debate on the journey of five decades of environmental action and global environmental multilateralism, and to exchange views to chart a path to strengthen UNEP for the next 50 years.

II. Modalities for engagement

The sessions are open to the participation of representatives of Member States, members of specialized agencies, specialized agencies, United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations and regional economic integration organizations, as well as to representatives of accredited major groups organizations.

The recommendation is to adopt the modality of pre-registering Contributing Ministers (Minister and/or Head of Delegation), who will be welcomed to provide in-person interventions on the topic of the dialogue, to maximize the interactions by countries. It is suggested that each dialogue would welcome the interventions by up to 15 Contributing Ministers, reflecting a balanced gender and geographical representation. If time permits, more Contributing Ministers will be welcomed to provide their contributions.

Inscription for the Leadership Dialogues will be pre-announced before the end of December 2021, with more detailed information on the registration process and the guiding questions for each dialogue.

Each dialogue will be led by a moderator and will include a maximum of five (5) Expert Speakers who will be selected and invited by the Secretariat taking into consideration regional and gender balance.

Leadership dialogues will be held in hybrid format and will be interpreted in all six official UN languages, using the platform “Interprefy”. Participants or their aides will be required to ensure connection to the platform prior to the Leadership Dialogue and familiarize themselves with the platform in advance, through participating in a dedicated training session offered by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will prepare a factual report of the main messages emanating from the discussions, and present it orally at the adjournment plenary of the Special Session scheduled for 16.30-18.00 Friday 4 March 2022. This Secretariat report of the Leadership Dialogues will be made available in writing after the meeting.

III. Structure of the Leadership Dialogues

The time allocated for each Leadership Dialogue is 90 minutes.

Each dialogue will be opened by the moderator, to provide background information and set the scene on the topic. This would be followed by interventions from Expert Invited Speakers who through their knowledge of the topic will be able to provide in-depth contributions that will form a holistic understanding that will enrich the Dialogue.

After the speakers, the pre-registered Contributing Ministers (Ministers or Heads of Delegation) will provide their responses to the guiding questions of the dialogue and the perspectives shared by the Expert Invited Speakers. The time allocated for each Contributing Minister is 3 minutes.

The moderator will close the meeting by thanking the Contributing Ministers and Expert Invited Speakers and by sharing some of the key takeaway messages from the dialogue.

The guiding questions for each of the dialogues will be proposed and circulated in January 2022.