



**“Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”**  
UNEA-6 theme.

## Leadership Dialogue one

### Super-highway or still in slow-motion: Are science, data and digitalization really speeding our transition to a sustainable future?

**Thursday 29 February 2024, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.**

#### A. Introduction

The sixth session of the [United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA-6\)](#), to be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, will include three [Leadership Dialogues](#) focusing on the UNEA-6 theme of [“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”](#). The three leadership dialogues are an official element of UNEA-6 and will be held in Conference Room 1. They include:

1. **Leadership Dialogue one: Super-highway or still in slow-motion: Are science, data and digitalization really speeding our transition to a sustainable future?** Thursday, 29 February, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
2. **Leadership Dialogue two: Show me the money: Can the global financial system really tackle climate change, nature loss and pollution?** Friday, 01 March, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
3. **Leadership Dialogue three: Alive and kicking: Environmental multilateralism is a beacon of hope but is it delivering fast enough?** Friday, 01 March, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This concept note is intended to assist Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders in their preparations for Leadership Dialogue One, focusing on science, data, and digitisation. The leadership dialogue is organized in acknowledgement that despite mounting scientific evidence and powerful digital tools, the climate crisis, the nature and biodiversity crisis and the pollution and waste crisis are worsening. For example, despite the globe adopting the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) at the close

of 2022, the [current rate](#) of species extinction is at historic levels and is accelerating. Chemical pollution has increased, despite the commitments from multiple MEAs while the world [continues](#) towards unsafe warming levels of 2.5°C – 2.9°C despite the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C.

The leadership dialogue will explore how we can enhance the use of scientific assessments such as the [IPCC](#), [GEO](#), [IPBES](#) and others as well as data and digital tools to tackle the three planetary environmental crises. It will also explore how countries can build on the momentum of the [UN Secretary General's Early Warning for All \(EW4All\) initiative](#), to enhance coverage of early warning to forestall and minimize risks arising from climate change; nature/biodiversity loss; and pollution and enhance the translation of early warnings to early action by linking risks to solutions and their investment potential. This will be considered as a new dimension of the EW4All called the Early Warning for the Environment.

The leadership dialogue will consider all elements that are critical to the use of science, data and digitalization in accelerating the attainment of global environmental goals including. These elements include artificial intelligence, machine learning, citizen science as well as the application of indigenous and local knowledge.

## **B. Scope and interlinkage**

This leadership dialogue will focus on science, data, and digitalisation as enablers of multilateral actions to address global environmental challenges in support of just and inclusive socioeconomic development. It will also complement the other two leadership dialogues: on environmental governance in achieving synergy and coherence in multilateral efforts and on finance in unlocking the investment potential of actions.

## **C. Participation and format**

The leadership dialogue will be open to all participants accredited to UNEA-6 and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

The dialogue will be interactive and held fully in person. There will be no pre-established list of speakers. Delegations will be invited to press the microphone button to indicate their wish to speak when the floor is open for interventions. The dialogue will be facilitated by a professional moderator to allow for an interactive discussion among the participants. Framing questions are provided in this document to guide the preparation of interventions. If time allows, the moderator may ask follow-up questions to the speakers.

The structure of the dialogue will be as follows: the moderator will welcome all participants to the dialogue and deliver short opening remarks explaining the modalities of participation. Then, the moderator will invite two keynote speakers to set the scene with introductory remarks of 5 minutes each (10 minutes total). The moderator will then open the floor for an interactive discussion for a total of 70 minutes.

In determining the order of speakers, priority will be given to speakers at the level of Head of State or Government or at the ministerial level, followed by high-level representatives of other stakeholders. Steps will be taken to ensure that participation in the leadership dialogue is interactive and balanced between speakers from participating Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders. It is envisaged that up to 15 Member States, 3 intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, and other United Nations system entities, along with 3 major groups and stakeholders would be accommodated to speak during the interactive discussion. To ensure maximum participation, interventions should be made from the floor, be succinct and concise, not exceeding two minutes, adhere strictly to the time limit. The moderator will conclude the dialogue with short closing remarks.

#### **D. Guiding questions**

Member States, observers and major groups and stakeholders will be invited to address the following guiding questions to facilitate an interactive dialogue:

1. Is the world really listening to the science and data that we already have? How can they be better leveraged to not only inform multilateral environmental agreements but action on the ground? What needs to change so UNEP and other science-based organizations stop sounding like a broken record?
2. How can early warning systems for the environment be enhanced to forestall and minimize slow and rapid-onset risks to the planet more effectively?

#### **E. Expected outcomes and call for actions.**

Participants are expected to call for the enhanced application of science, data, and digital tools for networked multilateralism and bridging of gaps between the planet sustainability and socioeconomic development and investment, towards effective, inclusive, and corporate implementation of multilateral agreements tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

#### **F. Contact details**

For inquiries and additional information, please get in touch with [Kelly West: Kelly.West@un.org](mailto:Kelly.West@un.org) and Richard Munang ([richard.munang@un.org](mailto:richard.munang@un.org)), Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP.