



UNEA
Delivering on the
2030 Agenda

23-27 May 2016
Nairobi, Kenya

The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) will take place at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under the overarching theme of **Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The Assembly, which represents the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will culminate in resolutions and a global call to action to address the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.

UNEA enjoys the universal membership of all 193 UN Member States and the full involvement of major groups and stakeholders. With this wide reach into the legislative, financial and development arenas, UNEA provides a groundbreaking platform for leadership on global environmental policy. Through UNEA, we can all work together to build a healthier environment to support humanity for generations to come.

The environment comes of age

For many, the creation of UNEA represents the coming of age of the environment. Since UNEP's inception in 1972, the environment has moved from the margins to the centre of the world's sustainable development agenda. This transition was affirmed at the historic United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, when world leaders called for UNEP to be strengthened and upgraded. The result was a new governing body, UNEA, which – for the first time – gives the environment the same level of global prominence as issues such as peace, poverty, health, security, finance and trade.

The first session of UNEA, which was held in June 2014, tackled major issues such as the illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the Green Economy, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Introducing UNEA-2

UNEA-2, which will be held from 23 to 27 May 2016, will reflect the latest global, regional and national developments related to the environment. It will also provide the first global platform for reviewing progress on the SDGs, particularly their environmental dimensions. To this end, UNEA-2 will contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), a UN platform that provides political leadership for the SDGs, reviews their implementation, and promotes the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In addition to the environment ministers of all UN Member States, several high-level participants have already confirmed their attendance: Christina Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe; Hélé Cheikhrouhou, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF); Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF; Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, among many other leaders.

What will happen at UNEA-2?

UNEA-2 will approve three documents that are critical to UNEP's work:

- **UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy for 2018–2021**, which describes how UNEP will address key environmental challenges using a results-based approach that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda.
- **UNEP's Programme of Work for 2018–2019**, which sets out the seven subprogrammes with associated strategies, expected accomplishments, key outputs, budgets and targets.
- **The Outcome Document from UNEA's High-Level Segment**, which will reflect environment ministers' collective vision for the future of the environmental agenda.

UNEA-2 will feature a number of high-level events:

- **A high-level plenary meeting** will provide direction on the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. Environment ministers and other high-level representatives will outline how the environmental community will work to achieve the SDGs. They will also define the role that UNEP will play in supporting nations and peoples to achieve these goals.
- **A Ministerial Policy-Review Session** will gather under the overarching theme **Healthy Environment, Healthy People**. At this session, ministers and other high-level officials will identify concrete partnerships, policies and tools that can help to achieve the SDGs in critical areas such as air quality, healthy ecosystems, chemicals and waste.
- **The Healthy Environment, Healthy People report** will address the nexus between environmental health and public health in light of the 2030 Agenda. The report, which will be launched at the Assembly, will serve as the backbone of the ministerial policy review session.

Other high-level events and symposia will focus on bringing together key players around issues central to the global environmental agenda. UNEA-2 will provide a space to share experiences and amplify successful initiatives on issues of global importance ranging from healthy oceans to sustainable finance, from biodiversity to sustainable mining.

UNEA: It's our world; take action!

UNEA also aims to bring in voices from civil society and the private sector, as well as the wider

international community. UNEP invites you to participate and share your concerns, experiences, and ideas for the future. There will be several opportunities to engage:

- **The 16th Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum** (GMGSF-16) will be held 21-22 May 2016. The Forum will provide a space for major groups and stakeholders from different regions to get together immediately before UNEA-2 to prepare their inputs and coordinate their contributions to the meeting.

- **A Multi-stakeholder Dialogue** will be held during the UNEA-2 High-level Segment. This will provide an opportunity for civil society organizations to discuss UNEA themes and develop strategic partnerships.
- **MyUNEA.org** is an interactive online hub that allows stakeholders around the world to contribute to the preparations for UNEA. It was created so that the public could learn about what the UN is doing on the environment, and to empower them to influence their policy makers about the best ways to foster a healthy environment for current and future generations. For more information and to register, visit www.myunea.org.

Partner with UNEA

UNEA is the meeting place for all those engaged in our global environment. There are many ways in which you or your organization can partner with UNEP to help shape a successful Assembly. For more information visit www.unep.org/UNEA2

Host a Side Event

Representatives of Member States, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, observer organizations, major groups and stakeholders, and UNEP Offices and Divisions have the opportunity to host side events that echo the themes of UNEA-2. For more information, please visit: www.MyUNEA.org

Donate to help us 'green' UNEA

UNEP aims to make UNEA a carbon-neutral and plastic-free event. This can't be achieved without financial support from our partners. Please contact **Shoa Ehsani** (shoa.ehsani@unep.org) for more information on how to help us make UNEA a thoroughly green event.

UNEA-2: How do we get there?

15-19 February 2016: The Open-Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-2) will allow Member States to discuss the overall choreography for UNEA-2, and to continue negotiating draft resolutions and the elements of the UNEA-2 outcome document.

February-May 2016: During this period between major meetings, subcommittees will conclude discussions on any outstanding matters, including events, resolutions, and the UNEA-2 outcome document and scenario note, among other topics.

UNEP, UNEA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Our societies face enormous challenges: resource scarcity, climate change, unemployment, food insecurity and inequity, among many others. These challenges call for radical changes, changes that the entire UN system and its partners must help to deliver. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the defining theme of UNEA-2, provides a clear pathway to a world in which everyone can enjoy prosperity within the ecological limits of the planet.

Roughly half of the Agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which world leaders affirmed in September 2015, focus on the environment or the sustainability of natural resources. These include the goals on poverty, health, food and agriculture, water and sanitation, human settlements, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, oceans and terrestrial ecosystems.

Environmental sustainability for the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals build on the eight Millennium Development Goals and aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

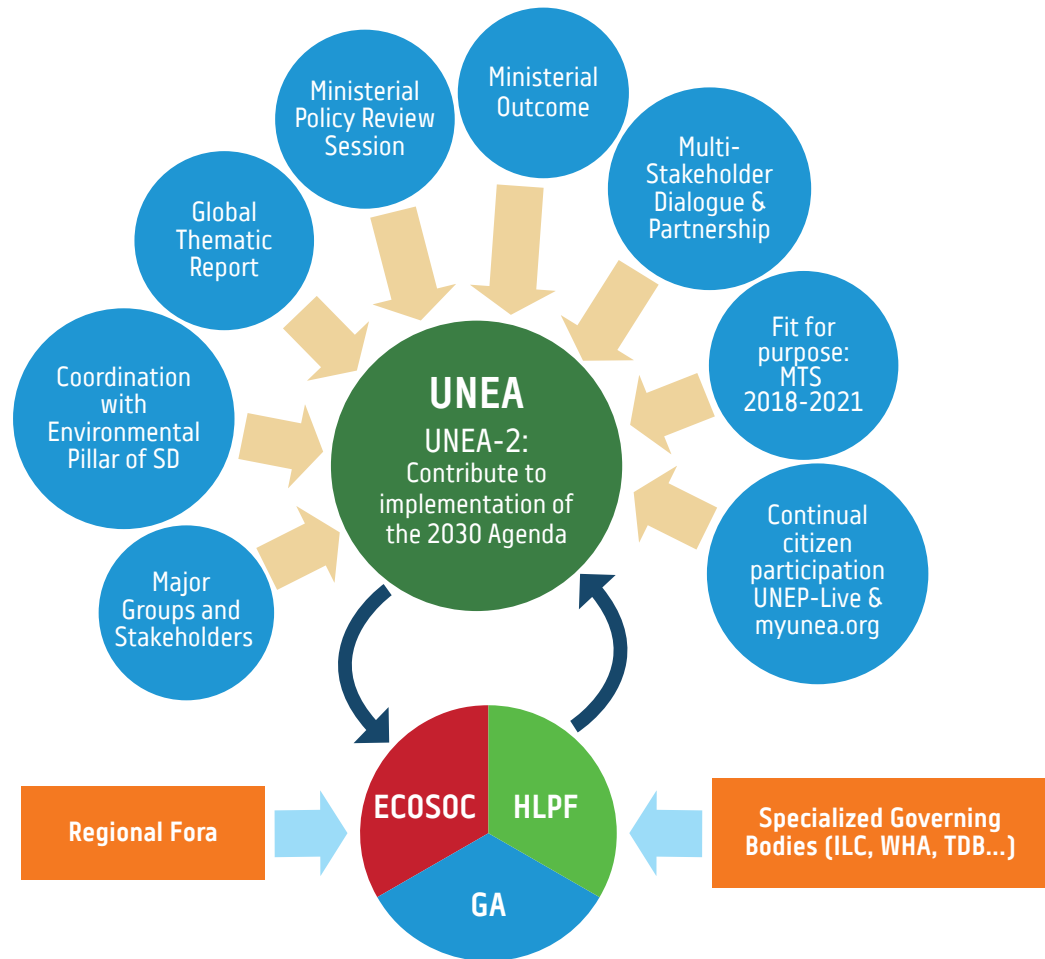
⊗ = related goal



Agenda 2030: A Plan of Global Action through Global Partnerships

Environmental Sustainability for the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda

About half of the SDGs are directly environmental in focus or address the sustainability of natural resources: poverty, health, food and agriculture, water and sanitation, human settlements, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, oceans, and terrestrial ecosystems. Over 86 targets concern environmental sustainability, including at least one in each of the 17 SDGs.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action adopted by world leaders for people, planet, prosperity and peace. This new universal path, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals, will only be achieved if everyone plays their part. UNEP will work with stakeholders and partners, and through UNEA in an innovative way, to support the Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly its environmental dimension.

- UNEP is committed to working with all concerned parties to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the 17 SDGs.
- UNEP promotes environmental sustainability, which is crucial to implementing the SDGs and ensuring the health of our planet.
- UNEP will help countries integrate the environmental dimension of sustainable development into their national planning processes, and build their capacity to track progress.
- UNEP will also work closely with the private sector and civil society groups to achieve the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Four core principles underpin UNEP's approach to the 2030 Agenda: universality, integration, human rights and equity, and innovation.

- **Universality:** The 2030 Agenda is global, applying to all peoples in all countries. It is a shared agenda that requires a collective response from the international community, governments, businesses, and citizens' groups.
- **Integration:** The 2030 Agenda addresses sustainable development as a harmonious whole. Past approaches treated the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development as disconnected pillars, but the new Agenda integrates and balances the three.
- **Human rights and equity:** The 2030 Agenda provides a pathway to a more just and sustainable world for all. It encourages a more even distribution of wealth and resources; equitable access to opportunities, information and the rule of law; and the development of new approaches to build capacities at all levels of society.

- **Innovation:** The acceleration and transfer of technological innovations is key to delivering the 2030 Agenda. The world will need new innovation pathways that draw on formal science, traditional knowledge and citizens' common sense.

The environment is everyone's business

"Now is the time to mobilize the global business community as never before. The case is clear. Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals will improve the environment for doing business and building markets."

**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
26 September 2015**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is "a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity" in the 21st century. The Agenda, and its 17 SDGs, address the unprecedented challenges and emerging issues facing the world – climate change, unsustainable consumption and production, poverty, unemployment and food insecurity, among others. To tackle these challenges, governments, the private sector and civil society need to work together at unprecedented levels.

While governments are pivotal in strengthening the policies and regulatory frameworks to create an investment climate that limits risks, ensures returns and realizes the 2030 Agenda, the private sector has a critical role to play in fostering sustainable solutions, innovation, employment and economic development. Business leaders are called on to identify and apply resource-efficient and cleaner solutions and technologies, and to engage with governments in identifying the enabling conditions to scale them up.

This is not just about what the private sector can do for sustainable development, but what sustainable development can do for the private sector. In the changing global landscape – where sustainability is high on the consumer agenda, climate change is threatening economic development, and inefficient practices are set to cause resource scarcity and price spikes – only those businesses and investors who embrace the new worldview will thrive.

The SDGs: rethinking business-as-usual

The implementation of the SDGs will have significant resource implications across the developed and developing world, and will require a change in the patterns and levels of support from public and private investment in all countries. For example, investment in clean energy and other SDG-related sectors are essential, but the US\$5-7 billion price tag means public finance cannot do it alone.

The private sector brings the innovation and technology that can help us leapfrog into the sustainable future that the SDGs promise. For example, according to the latest data available, in 2014 clean energy investments of US\$270 billion

funded almost half of all new power infrastructure and supported over 6.5 million jobs.

UNEP recognizes the importance of the private sector in such successes, and has worked over the years to build strategic partnerships, such as:

- **The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles**, which promotes better air quality in cities. The Partnership builds on current trends and efforts in the development of fuel and vehicle technologies to help developing countries reduce air pollution. The partnership was instrumental in bringing down the number of countries using leaded fuels from 82 in 2002 to only three today, saving on healthcare costs and increasing worker productivity through fewer sick days.
- **The en.lighten Initiative**, which was established as a partnership between UNEP, Philips Lighting and OSRAM with support of the Global Environment Facility. The initiative seeks to accelerate a global market transformation to energy-efficient lighting technologies. A switch to efficient on-grid and off-grid lighting globally would save more than US\$140 billion and reduce CO2 emissions by 580 million tonnes every year.
- **The UNEP Finance Initiative**, which is a global partnership between UNEP and the financial sector. Over 200 institutions, including banks, insurers and fund managers work with UNEP to understand the impacts of environmental and social considerations on financial performance. Under UNEP-FI's Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition, 25 institutional investors have committed to fighting climate change by decarbonizing US\$600 billion of assets.

- Different sectoral initiatives have promoted the adoption of more sustainable consumption and production practices across value chains, including the **Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, the Sustainable Rice Platform and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP)**.
- **The Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Programme**, which is a 20-year old collaboration between UNEP and UNIDO that brings together 76 technical partners from 64 countries. The programme has supported thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises in adopting resource- and energy-efficient production practices, ensuring the sound management of chemicals and minimizing waste generation.

Let's get down to business

As the world's highest-level UN decision-making body on the environment, UNEA-2 is an ideal platform through which stakeholders can work

together to drive green economies, healthy societies and sustainably-managed natural resources. UNEA-2 will mobilize the private sector to engage with policymakers on creating the innovative investment climate needed to support the green economy that is so critical for protecting the ecological boundaries of our planet for future generations.

Building on the success of UNEP's engagement with the private sector, and on recent experiences such as the Sustainable Innovation Forum of COP21 in Paris, UNEP is hosting a three-day Sustainable Innovation Expo, bringing together CEOs of major companies, institutional investors, foundations, banks, insurance companies and civil society representatives -- all aspiring to contribute to the SDGs. The Expo will include moderated panel discussions linking the private sector with policymakers to look at the global environmental challenges and the possible solutions. A series of high-level side events will also focus on the private sector, offering more opportunities and visibility to CEOs to contribute to global efforts to achieve the goals set by the 2030 Agenda.

To find out more on how you can participate in UNEA-2, please visit: www.unep.org/UNEA2 or contact unep.sgb@unep.org

Have your voice heard on www.myunepa.org, UNEP's interactive online platform for informing policy makers on ways to foster a healthy environment for now and future generations.

UNEP-Supported Global Initiatives, Partnerships and Networks

Examples of cross-cutting policies and programmes that can be expanded and enhanced to embed the principles of the 2030 Agenda and forge new collaborations with stakeholders working in related sectors



UNEA-2

Delivering on the environmental dimension
of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

23RD - 27TH May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya



JOIN US IN NAIROBI

for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment. Participants* will include heads of states, ministers and leaders from civil society and the private sector.



H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta
President
of the Republic of Kenya



H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft
President
of the 70TH session of the
United Nations General
Assembly



H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon
President
of the United Nations
Economic and Social Council

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*High-level attendants to be confirmed.



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