

Environment Management Group High-level Dialogue: UN system Climate Action in support of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28)
2 December 2023, 15:00-16:00 @ UNEP Pavilion

An EMG-hosted side-event at COP28

Introduction

Climate change imposes mounting challenges on both humanity and the natural world, amplifying hunger and affecting health, human rights, and equality. The inextricable connection between climate and nature is undeniable. As climate change accelerates biodiversity loss, ecosystems face immense strain, yet ecosystems also play a critical role in climate regulation, adaptation, and resilience. Consequently, safeguarding nature emerges as a pivotal element in the fight against climate change. Strengthening action on biodiversity and climate change under the UNFCCC process is expected to be a key component in achieving the vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050”. Enhancing climate resilience through the conservation and restoration of ecosystems is a priority of the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The United Nations (UN) has called for urgent, collective action and higher ambition to combat climate change, including through nature-based solutions that can play an important part in limiting global warming and in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. During COP28, Parties are expected to conclude the first [Global Stocktake](#) under the Paris Agreement, which will inform future climate action by Parties as well as international cooperation for climate action.

In this context, heads of UN entities will engage in a high-level Dialogue on joint messaging in which they will reflect on the support, cooperation and solutions the UN system is offering Parties to the UNFCCC in terms of effective climate action and its interlinkages with other key areas of sustainable development, including in interagency settings, global advocacy, normative frameworks, regional collaboration, and national implementation.



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



Programme and format

The Dialogue will consist of an opening statement and a panel discussion among UN entity heads who will underscore the significance of UN climate action for the implementation of the SDGs and scaling up streamlined interagency efforts and partnerships in support of countries’ efforts to implement the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Panelists will have ca 3 minutes each to share key priorities in response to the following questions:

- ***How can the UN system work better together to effectively support Parties to implement climate action?***
- ***In what areas of work could/should UN entities strengthen their support to Member States to enable stronger climate action (financing, technology, capacity building, science, etc.)? In what areas is system-wide collaboration particularly important?***
- ***What barriers are UN entities experiencing in providing support to Member States’ climate action? How can these be addressed?***

The indicative programme of the Environment Management Group High-level Dialogue at COP28:

Moderated by Ms Gabrielle Walker (TBC)
Opening statement (5 minutes) Ms Inger Andersen Executive Director of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chair of the EMG
Panel Discussion by entity heads of the UN system (30 minutes) In their panel interventions, UN entity heads will be invited to reflect on the UN climate action - the support, cooperation and solutions the UN system is offering Parties in terms of effective climate action and its interlinkages with other key areas of sustainable development, including in interagency settings, global advocacy, normative frameworks, regional collaboration, and national implementation. The panelists will also be invited to take stock of their individual and collective actions supporting Parties with mitigation, adaptation, just transition, loss and damage, and the delivery of the means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer and capacity building. Please see the guiding questions for the discussion above.
Q&A and Panelists Discussion (20 minutes)
Closing remarks – way forward by the Head of the EMG (5 minutes)

Expected outcomes of the Dialogue

The Dialogue will share common messages by the UN system on its support to Member States and opportunities for improved inter-agency collaboration. The key messages of the round table will inform the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group on ways to enhance system wide collaboration and rallying efforts in bridging the gaps and scaling up coherent UN system-wide support to climate action in interagency settings to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. The discussion may inform and inspire shared interagency action by all in the light of the renewed NDCs in 2025 to expedite and enhance coherent UN support to Member States in local, regional and global mobilization for action.