



Stockholm+50 Initiative

CONCEPT NOTE | THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION

Background

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment of 5-16 June 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden, laid the foundation for a global outlook, and identified common principles to inspire and guide the preservation and enhancement of the human environment. This landmark conference came up with key proclamations dubbed the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment that embodied key principles.

Building on the four proclamations of the Stockholm Declaration, there are 26 principles^[1], that puts environmental issues at the forefront of international discourse on development and marked the debut of global dialogues that bring together developed and developing countries to highlight the interconnection between economic development, the pollution of air, water, and oceans, and the well-being of people around the world. The Action Plan for the Stockholm Declaration have three strategic orientations; A) Framework for environmental action, B) Recommendations for actions at the international level, and C) the Action Plan, together with 109 recommendations to steer implementation. More specifically, the Action Plan contained three main categories: a) Environmental Assessment (Earth watch); b) Environmental management; and (c) International measures to support assessment and management activities carried out at the national and international levels. One significant outcome of the Stockholm conference was the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by the UN General Assembly.

Fifty years after the Stockholm Declaration, The UN General Assembly made a decision through two resolutions to convene an international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, in Stockholm, 2 - 3 June 2022, during the week of World Environment Day.

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972.

This is to commemorate 50 years since the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. It is designed to help accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the Decade of Action, including a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Stockholm+50 meeting will be hosted by the Government of Sweden with the support of the Government of Kenya. The Stockholm+50 meeting will mutually reinforce the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It will also enhance the effective participation at the highest possible level, of Member States of the United Nations, and UN specialized agencies and parties to the multilateral environmental agreements.

The Stockholm+50 initiative and national consultations

The overall goal of the Stockholm+50 initiative is to provide a springboard to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

The meeting will comprise of a high-level segment including the commemoration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. There will be four plenary sessions, three leadership dialogues, and a closing segment. The nature of the leadership dialogues will be collaborative and comprise of multi-stakeholders with a focus to come up with recommendations that contribute to the environmental dimension of sustainable development, to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of the decade of action, and delivery of sustainable development, including a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The three leadership dialogues are tailored to address the following themes:

- **Leadership dialogue 1:** *Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all.*
- **Leadership dialogue 2:** *Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and*

- **Leadership dialogue 3:** *Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.*

UNDP is facilitating national preparations and consultations for the Stockholm+50 Initiative on behalf of the Government of Sweden. There is a guideline that has been prepared to steer in-country consultations in a structured, coordinated, and inclusive way. There is also an online portal that has been created to expand the consultations and ensure nationwide participation.

The roll out the national consultations will be leveraging on existing in-country programming, and partnerships including through support to Nationally Determined Contributions and the implementation of the sustainable Development Goals.

The objective of the national consultations is to create an inclusive, whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm+50 as they relate to each national context. **More specifically:**



Build a shared global vision on how to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all while accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, and Multilateral Environment Agreements, and inclusive green recovery.



Offer clear recommendations for the government, civil society and the private sector on priority actions that can advance national and sectoral policies that address climate change, and leverage nature-based solutions. This will build and inform Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), green economy/green recovery, and SDG frameworks.



Amplify the voices of the poor, youth, women, indigenous groups, local communities, and other marginalized groups; and



Influence national and global debates that consider the views of all stakeholders.

Targeted Participants for the Consultation

All relevant major stakeholder groups, including women, youth, older people, people with disabilities, indigenous people, and local communities, as well as other representatives from civil society, and the private sector will be targeted to participate, and contribute to the discussions through a range of consultations at the global, regional, and national levels.

The targeted groups for the Stockholm+50 consultation process will include the following:

- The United Nations, accredited and non-accredited major stakeholder groups, and UN Country Team (UNCT), UN Resident Coordinator Office
- Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, universities and research institutions, private sector entities, interest groups (trade unions, employers' organizations, advocacy groups, coalitions etc.
- Experts on issues on nature, climate, energy, and other related areas
- Policy makers, including government authorities, and parliamentarians.
- Private sector entities, including small businesses and local entrepreneurs.
- Youth groups

Strategic approach for the Consultations in Uganda

The approach to the national consultations will include both in-person, and virtual engagements of the participants. This is designed to expand the ability to reach out to many national stakeholders to contribute effectively during the consultations. The representativeness of cultural and environmental diversity, and the mosaic of landscapes that exist in the country, will be crucial in enriching the outcomes of the consultation and the national position for the Stockholm+50 meeting. It is envisaged to have four regional consultations for effective engagement of regional participation, and to capture the diversity of the environmental landscapes in Uganda. Using the outcomes of the regional consultations, a national consultation workshop will be organized in Kampala to consolidate, validate, and constitute the national recommendations. There is also an online platform, Spark Blue, to allow the public to continuously express their views, and enhance the conversation.

To ensure government buy-in and national ownership, a national taskforce will be constituted with representatives of the key line ministries (i.e., Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, National Environment Management Authority, and the National Planning Authority) for co-planning and facilitating the consultation process.

From an operational perspective, a national consultant has been procured to prepare some background documents, oversee the consultations, facilitate, and lead the preparation of the outcomes of the consultations. In addition, he or she will document the methodological approach of the consultation process, and how to raise awareness on the outcomes of the consultations.

For enhanced visibility actions and public awareness raising, a communication strategy has been prepared, and a dedicated communication expert has been hired by UNDP to steer the visibility actions, messaging, and outreach activities during the period of the consultations. Structurally, the facilitation of the consultations will be guided by pre-determined questions under each of the three leadership themes for the Stockholm+50 initiative highlighted below. This is to ensure coherence and the use of a standardized approach across all the regions.

Leadership Theme

Guiding Questions

LD1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

- How can we restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature? List 2 or 3 good practices and pathways that you would like to see scaled up to enable a move to a healthy planet.
- What are the actions that you (your group) would take to scale up the change towards a healthy planet? What policies/structures need to be in place for you to take such action?
- How could marginalized and vulnerable groups benefit from policies and initiatives designed to restore a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature (that mitigates nature risks)?
- How can we safeguard the rights of people and nature, including among others, indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental defenders, women, youth, future generations?

What are the new or prioritized set of metrics and indicators needed for tracking our progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet?

LD2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

- What are the most promising sustainable and inclusive recovery practices currently being applied by public, private and civil society groups at individual, community, city, regional, country level? And how could we scale them up?

- What recovery and pre-existing practices need to be changed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery?
- How do we ensure that all countries/communities can benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition?
- How can we create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies? which sectors are most critical?
- What are some of the commitments and “responsible” principles that need to be made by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions?
- What are the decent green jobs of the future? What are the new skills needed, what is needed from business? from government? from academia?

LD3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

- What are the biggest challenges we are facing in implementing the commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other environmental commitments (MEAs)? How do we create an enabling environment for delivery on the ground?
- What are the good practices and pathways that you would like to see scaled up to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context, of the Decade of Action?

- How to transform governance and legal systems that maintain long-term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all?
- What measures are needed to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities?
- What type of partnerships from the UN and beyond are needed to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind?
- What capacities and technologies are needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature?

Roadmap for National Consultations

The activities and key events that will be implemented during the national consultation process, have been carefully identified and sequenced to reinforce the realizations of the expected outcomes. Some of the activities include:

Arrange a meeting with the ministers of Water and Environment, Energy and Mineral Development, Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, the UN Resident Coordinator, and Ambassador of Sweden to launch discuss the Stockholm+50 initiative and the expected outcomes for Uganda.

Organize four regional stakeholder consultations. This will be virtual meetings targeting the representatives from the district local governments, local government representatives, CSOs, youth, private sector, traditional and religious leaders among others.

Organize a dedicated youth consultation. This consultation will specifically target the youth at national level, to capture youth voices, document their contribution to all the thematic areas of the dialogue.

Organize a national consultation. This consultation will be held at the national level in Kampala as a physical and virtual meeting, with diverse participants that will include representatives from government, youth, private sector, CSOs and development partners.

Presentation of the draft report for review to the technical working group that comprise of representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, National Environment Management Authority, and the National Planning Authority.

Preparing and presenting the final report and preparation for participation in the Stockholm+50 Meeting in June 2022.

More detailed activities and schedule for the Stockholm+50 consultations included in Annex I

Expected Outcomes From the National Consultation

- A national vision for a healthy planet and shared prosperity.
- Recommendations of priority actions for governments, civil society, and private sector to advance national and sectoral policies that address climate change and leverage nature-based solutions.
- Representation of the voices of the poor, youth, women, indigenous groups, local communities, and other marginalized groups in the national statement for Stockholm+50.