



“A healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”

The UN General Assembly has agreed 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 on 2 and 3 June 2022, during the week of World Environment Day. The meeting will commemorate the 50 years since the convening of the UN Conference on the Human Environment. It is also designed to help accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals during the Decade of Action including through a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government of Sweden will host the meeting with the support of the Government of Kenya. Leadership Dialogues have been designed to be collaborative and multi-stakeholder, and will address three 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
- **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.

Objective

The UNDP Mauritius Country Office has been mandated to facilitate national consultations and will be working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

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

In this context, you are invited to submit your comments on each of the three Leadership Dialogues, and on the following guiding questions. You are welcome to answer as many questions as you wish - any input will be appreciated.

Stockholm +50 National Consultation

11 April 2022, Vulnerable Group

Maison Familiale – Pamplémousses

The Stockholm+50 consultation was held by the GEF Small Grants Programme – UNDP in collaboration with Fondation Ressources et Nature (FORENA) at Calebasses, at the school of the Maison Familiale Rurale du Nord, on Monday April 11, 2022. The session started at 9:30 and ended at 12:30. The consultation was carried out on a group of 36 youth (17 females and 19 males) ranging from ages 14 – 18.

After a brief welcome note from the Director, a presentation on the challenges faced by SIDS and Mauritius in particular was presented by the National Coordinator GEF SGP UNDP. Following which the President of FORENA explained the methodology to be used.

This group was chosen as they represent the vulnerable population and vulnerable youths of Mauritius. They were approached in alignment to the “leave no one behind” philosophy of these consultations. The session was organized following the ‘world café’ methodology where facilitators stayed on one table and the students would then go to each group in the span of an hour. This allowed all the participants to be consulted on all themes. This exchange was conducted in creole – the local dialect – as it is the primary language of these stakeholders.

The three Leadership Dialogue themes were discussed with a selection of 3 questions each. This was done to facilitate thematic responses with a broader picture in mind rather than precise and technical questions. The facilitators were fluent in creole but on a couple of occasions experienced a language barrier and received support from the teaching staff to convey the message. Apart from the initial language challenge all youth involved as well as teaching staff were very active in their responses and came up with great ideas and solutions. Everyone participated as a group, and they even debated to figure out the best way to formulate an idea.

The deliberations were presented at a plenary session, after which the youth had a lot to say about the empowerment of vulnerable voices. A few of them had concerns that follow up actions would not be taken after this consultation but were reassured by the “question for all” segment. All stakeholders might it be the youth and teaching staff were thrilled that they had been chosen to participate in this dialogue. They compared themselves to academia and other stakeholders that participated previously and were very proud to know they received the same consideration as established professionals and scholars.

Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all.

1. What are the actions taken to protect the environment?

- Recycling in school, but lack of follow through and it's not done regularly at home
- Bio-farming workshops done at school - no use of pesticides etc.
- Bio-gas
- Solar panels

2. What are the actions we can take to accelerate the development towards a healthy planet?

- Waste management -> more bins, recycling bins, compost facilities
- Rain harvesting
- Renewable energy (more grants from the government to fund solar panels)
- Marine activities should be more regulated (Boats, catamarans - mainly in the tourism sector)
- Employ more people for clean-ups, environment activities in each district / municipality
- Tackle drug issue
- Organise activities for youth in their area, especially in poverty-stricken cities
- Grants from the government for hybrid cars
- 0 plastic - especially in supermarkets
- More collaboration with NGO's and organizations to help children and families in poor areas
- More law enforcement by the police (less racial profiling)
- More healthy diet (meat industry should be regulated, increase bio-farming, and promote the benefits of it to people)
- Use more public transport
- Repurpose items
- Preserve endemic species
- Less imports

3. What are the actions taken by the government / district council in your area? And how can vulnerable groups benefit from them?

- Aside from the usual collection of trash on a weekly period, cities that are heavily touched by poverty are not being helped by the authorities. A lot of children don't go to school, there are drug addicts etc.
- The idea of cleaning up and being more "eco-friendly" is often not a priority, because other issues are deeply affecting the livelihoods of those families, e.g: poverty, lack of food and water etc. Therefore, people are not really informed about the practices/actions to adopt to protect the environment and why it is important.
- Each district council or "head of the village" should engage its inhabitants by organising events and "workshops" to educate about the environment, create group clean ups and projects such as a collective garden to encourage and teach people.
- In general, more aid should be provided to vulnerable families in terms of housing, food, and education first.

4. Question for all;

- Share with others (Family, friends in the area)
- Sensitize kids at a young age at school - provide environmental workshops at school
- Apply small steps at home first (recycling, composting) and then on a national level
- Get more involved with environment activities, and involve Youth clubs, NGOs in localities

LD 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Group 1 responses -

- Keep face masks
- Vaccination policies should be kept up for the vulnerable but removed/relaxed for less vulnerable people
- Keep most of the public hygiene policies intact, just remain careful
- Think in a way that promotes organic products and mindsets
- School to keep vigilant around Covid-19 policies
- Anti-pesticide campaign, educate public on the downsides of pesticides and their effect on human and animal health
- Natural methods and appropriate tools are used in order to work and take care of the earth
- Government entities to provide fertile and adequate land for cultivation and work
- Create loans with preferential tariffs for farmers or wage assistance schemes when harvest season is lean
- Subsidies can be introduced (mimic Australian farming model) to help with the cost of raw materials and water
- Provide safe spaces to sell produce - prioritise local production in endorsement deals in supermarkets and only import for seasonal produce. (Try to make the island self-sufficient)
- Advertise to possible international sponsors for individual organic projects and concepts
- Try to change to clean and sustainable energy and prioritise local energy production to meet self-sufficiency goal
- Think of composting and selling compost on a wider market - if enough is produced try to export or educate the general population to create more engagement with focus. If people produce compost but don't use it, invest in building collection centres and giving it to small agriculture to promote bio certified products.
- Teach people to care for the earth around them
- Prioritise and promote education to vulnerable groups and include environmental programmes in all primary schools.
- Use the opportunity derived from Covid-19 to fight domestic violence that increased
- Make more reusable long-term commitments regarding plastic
- Instead of single use plastic water bottles or sanitizer dispensers, reuse or remove completely
- Make rainwater collection spaces as when it rains, reservoirs do not always get rained on the most
- Make carpool a greater practice and for public transport ensure all buses are in good condition and do not pollute

Group 2 responses -

- Learn to live with the disease and take it in stride
- In schools keep distance as it is more crowded
- Social distance and make mandatory restrictions in public transports to reduce number of people inside
- Maintain sanitary protocols for a bit longer after the pandemic

- To try and help create engagement in jobs, promote jobs by advertising and reaching out to the general population
- Use natural techniques mentioned above on a personal level, home gardens
- Try to create a greater focus on green jobs and create other jobs that might not be needed right now but that would be needed in the future
- Engage the general population through greener religious spaces, leisure spots, organise trails and nature discovery walks
- Take care of endemic plants and recycle, whenever people go on a walk provide free bin bags so they can clean while enjoying the scenery
- To advertise jobs - use billboards, social media, and newspapers. As a follow up activity to the advertising allow people to follow workshops and train them voluntarily
- More developed countries can provide solar panels, or materials to make solar panels or greenhouse in each district that will become community greenhouses
- Rely increasingly on biofuels and try and find financing to build facilities that will produce said biofuels
- Create workshops to show people to use biofuels and create employment and skill
- Become self-sufficient and produce our own milk, rice, herbs, spices
- If able to produce enough clean energy to be self-sufficient then resell that energy to suppliers in the country

Group 3 responses -

- Keep all sanitary measures in place but ration sanitizer to prevent wastage or alternatively provide sanitizer collection points to dispense in bulk with special permits
- Replace hygiene protection by biodegradable face covering made of maize pulp or natural wastes (when landscaping and cutting branches use this waste and recycle it into protection), reduce mass production to shift to more eco-friendly products
- Do regular clean-ups in nature to collect waste and send them to proper recycling facilities
- Government to create possible (minimal) financial incentives for particulars who clean up and bring back bin bags
- Reduce car pollution (car fumes reduction) promote hybrid cars or fully electric cars to be recharged with renewable and green energy
- Educate youth and occupy them with environment friendly and centred activities so they don't fall into drugs
- Activities mentioned above will create greater engagement with youth and the environment leading to more proactive protection of the planet
- Keep up planting and reforestation efforts on individual and national level
- Circular economy, local buying
- Government/population cooperation for better opportunities to recycle, produce and educate
- Change plastic suites, fishing nets, shoe nets and hair nets to reusable materials that can be sanitized and cleaned after each use
- Renew the economy by tampering down on restrictions and promoting international festivals to help make them discoverable

- Use cardboard and paper appliances to make easier to recycle, add recycle bins more frequently around and make them accessible
- Incentivize agriculture to get more people to participate
- Make mandatory business restrictions to make them more focused on nature
- Have businesses recycle whatever they produce or provide facilities for other people of the general population to help them recycle.

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.

What are the biggest challenges we are facing to achieve our 2030 SDG's?

- Pollution from construction of buildings, exhaust fumes, air, and trash
- Highly dependent on importations
- Deforestation
- Sand mining
- Climate change from rain and drought
- Extinction of species like corals
- Pesticides on planted vegetables
- Prices keep increasing
- Problem with meat industry, chicken being force fed
- Water waste
- Overuse of washing machines
- Chemical products being throw in nature
- Aggressive communication

How can we increase the wellbeing of human beings to help live in harmony with nature?

- Plant more trees
- Farming with respect to norms
- Planting bio food
- Using biogas
- Use of hybrid vehicles
- Limitation of chemical products, use of manure
- Buy locally
- Use recycling bins
- No more plastic use
- Open animal centres
- Include more ecological habits, use of bikes
- Unplug technological devices after usage
- Make use of rainwater
- Limit electricity consumption
- Stop war
- Education on sustainable development
- Spread awareness

- Decrease fishing
- Decrease usage of transport/ switch to electric transport
- Preserve our natural forests
- More green spaces
- Take care of our environment
- Understanding and peaceful communication

Question for all: What kind of follow up activities would you like to see from Stockholm +50?

- Develop local economy
- Work more together as a team
- Decrease consumerism
- Integrate education about agriculture and subjects linked to science
- Education about farming
- Natural medicine