



“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

6 April 2022 , Youth and Persons with disabilities

Caudan Arts Centre

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

1. 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.

There are several ways that the participants said our relationship with nature could be restored:

- Avoid deforestation
- Build health tracks in nature instead of huge buildings for gyms
- Buy local organic food. As demand for local food increases, the business supply will also go up.
- Use less plastic and stop using harmful chemicals
- Use the principles of the 3 Rs in our everyday life – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Create new educational programs about the importance of nature so that people can better understand why they need to change their harmful actions towards nature
- Have ongoing and consistent sensitization and cleaning campaigns across the island
- And prevent the emission of greenhouse gases and water pollutants.

2. 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?

Participants have shared that ongoing sensitization campaign is particularly important. Education about the environment should start at the very beginning- with children. They should be taught about throwing waste in the dustbin, sorting of waste, composting as well as sustainable agriculture. There should be more awareness campaigns in secondary schools.

Participants also put the emphasis on using new innovative methods to raise awareness, through sketches, video clips and social media to reach a broader and the young generations.

3. 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)?

The participants first started by defining what they understand by marginalized and vulnerable groups – those living below the poverty line, the elderly, and people with disabilities. They also emphasized the need to build a more inclusive Mauritian society- where people with disabilities are integrated.

Participants also have also discussed how vulnerable people have poor/no access to nutritious food. Therefore, they should be given training and resources for sustainable agriculture for the nutrient needs to be met. Vulnerable groups are also greatly affected by pollution. There needs to be more

capacity building for people with disabilities as well as new policies to ensure accessibility. For example, assisted devices.

4. How can we safeguard the rights of people and nature, including among others, indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental defenders, women, youth, future generations?

Participants took the example of Bolivia and India where nature is protected by law. They also shared that the Mauritian Constitution should be amended to reflect this.

There also needs to be a change in mindset such that every person is seen as equal. There needs to be a more positive approach towards people with disabilities. They should be valued in our society.

Women's rights and the rights of vulnerable communities need to be amplified and respected

Good governance should be encouraged; for capacity building, everyone should have equal access to training and resources. Everyone should be brought to an equal footing at the very beginning.

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

- Use the SDGs set by UN
- Participants have also emphasized the need for reliable data to be compiled to assist and inform policy making.
- There should be consistent follow-up and evaluation of the policies implemented. There should also be a national consensus/stakeholders' consensus for the policy implementation.
- There needs to be better access to information and ongoing and consistent training. People need to be encouraged and trained to develop creative and/or innovative ideas to find eco-friendly solutions to everyday problems.
- Use women's rights to protect the environment
- Develop an Environmental Index for companies and other stakeholders to measure the efficiency of their environmental projects. A planning and research unit within the Ministry of the Environment could be created to compile and publish all this data. One of the indicators can be the carbon footprint of the stakeholder's activities.

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

1. 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?

- a) People of all ages should be encouraged to plant. Government intervention required to support planters.
- b) The free vaccination campaign is a sustainable and inclusive recovery practice. It ensures no one is excluded.
- c) Work from home reduces car on our road. Pollution subsequently falls. This should be encouraged in the post-pandemic era.

2. What recovery and pre-existing practices need to be changed to ensure an inclusive growth?

- a) Plantation- people need to plant despite the pandemic. Children needs to be encouraged to plant also.
- b) Other new methods of plantation need to be investigated- eg: Vertical Planting
- c) Seeds for some plants like mushroom needs to be more accessible to the general public
- d) Population needs to already be prepared for a Plan B- in case of other pandemics.
- e) Needs to find a hobby for autists.
- f) Parents of disabled children need to be given training. In case of pandemic, this will increase ability of parents to cope, thereby increasing resilience.
- g) Online education is not very effective. Many children are left behind. To prepare the population and ensure inclusive and resilient growth, online education needs to be further developed. Options and alternatives need to be developed to ensure people who don't have access to internet are not excluded.
- h) Internet should not be a requirement for inclusivity. Opportunities should exist for people operating outside the boundaries of tech.
- i) For e.g., people who don't have access to technology should have people come to them.
- j) Basic education about how to use tech tools-tablets etc.- should be given
- k) Use of social media to promote awareness.
- l) Awareness campaign to ensure communication of updated information.

3. How do we ensure that all countries/communities can benefit from opportunities stemming from just transition?

- a) Government/organizations that ensure opportunities are evenly spread
- b) CSR- public/private/NGO partnerships to ensure people in need have access to info: e.g. what CSR money is being used for, how to have access to funds
- c) Collaboration at the basis of systems: NGO locate errors/difficulties and find funding opportunities through public/private/org collab to solve those problems. Monthly meetings between those different parties should also be held.
- d) Task force per region: listen to region-wise issues and take actions accordingly.

- e) Promotion of information at all levels. This will inform decision making at various levels.
- f) Since secondary level, students should be trained to be active and take initiatives. WhatsApp youth groups should be created region-wise and take actions accordingly.

4. How can we create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to a more sustainable economies? Which sectors are most critical ?

- a) Promotion of local products
- b) Inter-season crops.
- c) Circular economies
- d) Awareness campaigns to ensure consumers demand the right products.
- e) Bio products- education to inform consumers of dangers of non rg products

5. What are some key commitment that needs to be made by key industry ?

- a) Recycling
- b) Consideration of environment
- c) Reduce imports of raw materials
- d) Reduce imports of food products (eg. Flour, oil)
- e) Alternative ways to produce basic goods. For eg, flour can be produced using manioc

6. What are decent green jobs for the future ?

What are new skills needed ?

What is needed from govt, academia, business ?

Decent green jobs:

- a) Reuse
- b) Circular economy-people working on how to integrate circular economy in the general economy.
- c) Alternative types of materials.
- d) Embellishment of residential areas-better integration with nature.
- e) Reforestation
- f) Aquaculture
- g) Type of jobs that can protect environment. Paperless.

Skills:

- a) Creativity
- b) Innovation
- c) Knowledge

Govt:

- a) Provide plants to various parties. Eg to residential communities.
- b) More incentives
- c) Review permit

- d) Subsidy.- eg on save-rain water tank
- e) Low interest loan

Academia:

- a) Research
- b) Dissemination of research to grassroot communities.
- c) Training for general public.
- d) Evaluation and follow-up
- e) Implementation

Business:

- a) Funding through CSR
- b) Help financially ONG
- c) Increase information and collaboration

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.

1. 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?

- a) Mindset, societal and cultural barriers.
 - b) Outdated and irrelevant curriculum at school.
 - c) Patriarchy. Family structure and parental responsibility.
 - d) Lack of resources or wrong use of resources.
 - e) Lack of information.
 - f) Training and skill gap.
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- a) Deforestation leading to climate change. Reforestation of sugar cane fields.
 - b) Introduction of ferries and sea route for public transport.
 - c) Motorcycle track.

2. 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?

- a) Off the grid solar energy for new developments.
- b) Smarter waste management with recycling and upcycling.
- c) Roof gardens on buildings.
- d) Rainwater harvesting.
- e) More women in STEM.

f) Connect upcyclers and local governments which are responsible for waste collection.

3. How to transform governance and legal systems that maintain long-term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all?

- a) Education and pedagogy should be done before coming up with laws.
- b) Fast track implementation of laws to adapt.
- c) Reassess and re imagine enforcement of laws.
- d) Reduce lifetime of court cases.

4. What measures are needed to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities?

- a) Targeted projects.
- b) Duplication mapping of projects. T
- c) transparency on finance trail of projects.

5. What type of partnerships from the UN and beyond are needed to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind?

- a) Walk the talk.
- b) Communicate on follow up actions following Paris Agreement.

6. What capacities and technologies are needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature? nature?

What kind of follow-up activities would you like to see from Stockholm+50?

- Need for funding to execute the projects and policies
- New policies put forward to protect the environment
- National Call for Proposals for young people to put forward their projects for a greener and better Mauritius
- Ongoing training and capacity building for the youth
- More active participation by civil societies
- Access to adequate and necessary equipment and technology
- Train the Trainer programs