



## Stockholm +50

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

Preliminary Messages and Findings from  
Stockholm +50 National Consultations

*Draft 29 May*

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## Executive Summary

[“Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”](#) is a high-level international meeting held from 2-3 June 2022 in Stockholm, co-hosted by Sweden and Kenya to commemorate the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and celebrate 50 years of global environmental action. Anchored in the [Decade of Action](#), it is designed to accelerate delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, and to encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

As part of the participatory and inclusive Stockholm+50 process that reflects the richness and diversity of voices and perspectives, the Government of Sweden provided financial support for national consultations across 56 developing countries. UNDP facilitated the national consultations through financial and technical support provided to governments and other national stakeholders between February and May 2022.

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

The findings and recommendations emerging from these consultations are being captured in national reports and a global synthesis report to inform the Stockholm+50 meeting and post-Stockholm follow up and to help consolidate national policy frameworks such as Nationally Determined Commitments, National Adaptation Plans, National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans, green recovery, and sector strategies.

Over 250 Stockholm+50 national events have taken place across 56 countries with over 50,000 people participating in in-person and hybrid consultation events and engaging virtually.

This report presents the emerging findings from these events based on draft national consultation reports submitted in May 2022. These findings will be further analysed and elaborated in a final Global Synthesis Report to be presented after the international meeting.

The following key messages have been raised during the Stockholm+50 national consultations.

1. Countries call for **stronger partnerships in support of improved means of implementation** of the Decade of Action, including improved capacities, technology transfer, support to digital transformation, North-South and South-South cooperation.
2. There is a need for **strengthened environmental governance** at all levels building upon enhanced public participation and access to environmental information, improved data, diagnostics, evidence-base and risk knowledge, rebuilt trust between governments and society, more women in leaderships roles, and an effective response to the needs of stakeholder groups, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and others.
3. There is a call to radically **improve financing** for the delivery of environmental targets of SDGs by unleashing and consolidating environmental finance across all sources – domestic and international, public and private, and hybrid – by smarter and more effective management of environmental and climate finance, and repurposing of harmful subsidies.

4. In the context of multiple and interlinked planetary crises faced by the humanity, there is an understanding of the need for **integrated resilient solutions** beyond nature, climate and energy that address complex and growing risks of food and energy insecurity, fragility and conflict, poverty, and inequality.
5. Countries are looking for strong drivers for **economic transformation towards a greener and healthier development paradigm**. This includes support to adjust national targets and metrics, to reform economic systems and investment flows towards sustainable consumption and production and circularity, and to reduce the environmental footprint from high-impact sectors such as food, energy, extractives, tourism, transport and infrastructure.
6. National stakeholders have highlighted the need for a **just and inclusive transition** towards greener and resilient development, which should include targeted support to workers across formal and informal sectors and their families who might be negatively affected by the economic transformation, with a particular focus on gender equality and on groups living in vulnerable and marginalized contexts.
7. **Youth leaders and activists** highlighted the need for environmental and climate education, training, capacity building and access to information; the importance for their governments to unlock and promote green jobs, green businesses and youth innovations empowered with digital technologies; and the need for increased and consolidated international and national funding flows for the accelerated implementation of environmental and climate action.
8. Finally, the countries are looking forward to Stockholm+50 for result-oriented recommendations and commitments, which could be translated into **bold transformative follow-up action** through fair and effective multilateralism.

# 1 Stockholm+50 and the Role of National Consultation

## 1.1 Stockholm+50

[“Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”](#) is a high-level international meeting held on 2-3 June 2022 in Stockholm, co-hosted by Sweden and Kenya<sup>1</sup>. Stockholm+50 commemorates the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and celebrates 50 years of global environmental action<sup>2</sup>. The meeting is also a timely and significant opportunity to reflect, connect, accelerate and scale actions for a better future on a healthy planet with prosperity for all; it marks the moment for bold and urgent action and engagement.

Stockholm+50’s aim is to create the momentum and alliances that will accelerate action at scale to deliver on existing commitments. Anchored in the [Decade of Action](#), it is designed to accelerate delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans. It will reiterate the importance of multilateralism in tackling the triple planetary crisis – climate, nature, and pollution. An action-oriented outcome is envisioned, supported by three Leadership Dialogues (LD):

- **Leadership Dialogue 1:** *‘Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all’*. This dialogue focuses on the need to live in harmony with nature for development, gender equality, intra and inter-generational equity, and human wellbeing.
- **Leadership Dialogue 2:** *‘Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic’*. This dialogue will address the specific actions needed to build back from the pandemic and all its adverse impacts on people, the planet and prosperity and put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs.
- **Leadership Dialogue 3:** *‘Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda in context of the Decade of Action’*. This dialogue stresses the urgent need to accelerate the pace of change and seeks to set out the partnerships, finance and technology needed to shift from commitments to action.

Stockholm+50’s three Leadership Dialogues serve as guiding themes, aimed at engaging governments, Indigenous Peoples, business and the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to overcome barriers to implementation, connect action and create the pathways that reach across generations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The LDs highlight the urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet, a sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup> The meeting’s objectives and modalities are outlined in two UNGA Resolutions ([undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/280](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/280), [undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/326](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/326)).

<sup>2</sup> The **Stockholm Conference in 1972** was a watershed moment that succeeded in bringing environment to the global stage. It led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and catalyzed a new era of multilateral environmental cooperation and treaty-making. The **1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development**, also known as the Earth Summit, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, contributed to the negotiation and adoption of a new set of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that tried to bridge the three pillars of sustainable development: the environment, social development, and economic development. Twenty years after the Earth Summit in 1992, the **UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**, set in motion the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Broad stakeholder engagement and consultation are integral to the Stockholm +50 process<sup>3</sup>, and to this end, the high-level meeting in June 2022 follows months of consultations and discussions with individuals, communities, organizations and governments around the world.

In the lead-up to Stockholm+50, a series of **regional multi-stakeholder consultations** were organized in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia to discuss regional specific topics, sectors and solutions. The five regional consultations were open to all major groups, the private sector, all government representatives, and other stakeholders. They were organised by UNEP with the support of the [Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals \(GO4SDGs\)](#) initiative and co-designed with Major Groups and stakeholders.

In parallel to the regional consultations, UNDP facilitated whole-of-society and whole-of-government Stockholm+50 **National Consultations** in 56 countries across all regions with funding from Sweden. These National Consultations are the focus of this report.

The purpose of the regional and national consultations was to: (i) give voice to and facilitate engagement of as large a number of stakeholders as possible; (ii) ensure a bottom-up mapping of key elements and actions needed to safeguard the human environment in the 21st century in the context of each country's and region's needs, including on policies and actions required in those economic sectors most critical for sustainable development; (iii) review and assess how the human environment can be enhanced to help countries and regions attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on innovative and enhanced means of implementation and on enhancing human capacities.

## 1.2 Role of National Consultations in Stockholm+50 process

The National Consultations were facilitated by UNDP drawing on financial and technical support provided by the Government of Sweden. They leveraged in-country programming and partnerships, including support to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) processes (e.g., UNDP's Climate Promise<sup>4</sup>) and broader work on Nature, Climate, Energy, and other integrated SDG themes.

The objectives of the National Consultations were 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.
- Build a shared global vision on how to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all while accelerating progress on the SDGs and Multilateral Environment Agreements through an inclusive green recovery;
- Offer clear recommendations for governments, civil society and private sector on priority actions that can advance national and sectoral policies that address climate change and leverage nature-based solutions;
- 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.

The National Consultations were conducted from February-May 2022. They have supported the Stockholm+50 process in part by allowing governments and stakeholders to prepare for

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<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution 75/326 ("Modalities Resolution") states that "all relevant stakeholders, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, to contribute to the discussions of the international meeting and their preparation and to build momentum for a healthy planet for the prosperity of all".

<sup>4</sup> <https://climatepromise.undp.org/>

their delegations' participation in the global Meeting and side events and by feeding into the development of its outcomes.

The National Consultations also have served as a springboard for deepening country engagement on complementary issues, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), green economy/green recovery and linked national and sectoral development priorities<sup>5</sup> and SDG frameworks. They have contributed to country engagement in the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC COPs in 2022.

The national reports on the National Consultations feed into a Global Synthesis Report to be prepared by UNDP following the June Meeting. The Global Synthesis report will compile the outcomes of the national consultations undertaken in 56 countries and will present the opportunities, challenges and recommendations contextualized by national circumstances. This initial report presents the emerging findings based on 34 draft reports submitted in May 2022.

## 2 National Consultations – Process and engagement

### 2.1 Participating countries

In total 56 countries received support to complete their National Consultations across all regions - Africa (18), Arab States (7), Asia and the Pacific (13), Europe and Central Asia (6) and Latin America and the Caribbean (12)<sup>6</sup>.

A number of factors were considered in selecting countries to receive this support. These included country demand / ownership, and ensuring representation across several dimensions such as region, country typology, and different types of development challenges and opportunities. Some countries with a leading role for hosting multilateral processes in 2022 were also considered. These included hosts for COPs, the G20 presidency, and countries with special roles in Stockholm+50 such as co-hosting Informal Working Groups (IWGs). Selection criteria also considered countries who had endorsed the two UN Resolutions on Stockholm+50. Additional consideration was given to countries and already had in place a broad-based consultation infrastructure through the Climate Promise<sup>7</sup> or similar initiatives.

### 2.2 Tools, Technical Guidance and Facilitation

**National Consultation Guidelines**<sup>8</sup> were prepared by UNDP to assist, streamline, and maximize the impact of the country led consultations, and to help countries identify context-appropriate inclusive consultation processes. These guidelines were informed by other national consultations process such as preparations for the 2030 Agenda and the global Food Summit. The National Consultation guidelines were adapted and shared through the Green

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<sup>5</sup> For example, urbanization, food and nutrition security, youth empowerment, poverty eradication, gender equality, employment, debt reduction and inclusive growth

<sup>6</sup> **Africa:** Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe, CAR, and Guinea.

**Arab States:** Algeria, PAPP, Sudan, Morocco, Jordan, Somalia, and Iraq.

**Eastern Europe and CIS:** Kazakhstan, Turkey, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Georgia.

**Latin America and Caribbean:** Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Chile, and Ecuador.

**Asia-Pacific:** Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Maldives, FSM, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Viet Nam, and Vanuatu.

<sup>7</sup> UNDP's Climate Promise initiative supports 120 countries revise and implement their NDCs alongside over 35 partners

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.sparkblue.org/system/files/2022-02/Stockholm%2B50%20National%20Consultations\\_Guidelines\\_%2020\\_01\\_22.pdf](https://www.sparkblue.org/system/files/2022-02/Stockholm%2B50%20National%20Consultations_Guidelines_%2020_01_22.pdf)

Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) and elsewhere so that any other country or stakeholder group could take advantage of them. The guidelines were made available in an e-format in English and French languages.

UNDP's collaboration hub, called **SparkBlue**<sup>9,10</sup>, is hosting a Stockholm+50 portal for the National Consultations. This SparkBlue virtual platform was established to encourage participation, with a SparkBlue page created for each participating country as a one-stop-shop for the National Consultations. The country specific pages include: background information on Stockholm+50; country-specific policy data and information; each national consultation's concept note, agenda, and speakers/facilitators; livestreamed and recorded plenary-style consultations; post-consultation question and discussion fora; consultation. SparkBlue serves as a centralized space for materials and engagement activity and notifies stakeholders when new content has been added.

In addition, UNDP Country Offices – and in turn national partners and stakeholders - were provided with wide-ranging support throughout the national consultation process to ensure whole-of-society and whole-of-governance approach adapted to the priorities of each country, as summarized below.

### **Thematic and planning support**

- Capacity building, including bi-weekly orientation webinars for the country teams involving thematic briefings provided by UNDP, UNEP and other partners.
- Stakeholder mapping for gender responsive and socially inclusive consultations.
- Initial planning and coordination to define the consultation structure (i.e., number of in-person/online live consultations), and to identify speakers/ facilitators, participants, and prepare the consultation agenda, data and communications strategy.

### **Promotion and stakeholder engagement support**

- Launch of national consultation including save-the-date, invitations, sharing of background information including on NDCs and other relevant policy frameworks, and population of SparkBlue virtual consultation space.
- Support to in-person/live streamed consultations from February-May 2022.
- Guidance on communication and outreach.

### **Analysis and Reporting**

- Data mapping, inventory, analysis and visualization.
- Documentation and reporting back on results of consultations.

### **Post-Stockholm+50 follow-up *planned***

- Ongoing post-consultation online discussion on SparkBlue virtual platform;
- Ongoing communications
- Post-Stockholm+50 follow-up.

UNEP, Sweden, and Kenya all supported preparations for the National Consultations through, for example, reviewing national consultation guidelines, communications and technical inputs.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50>

<sup>10</sup> SparkBlue is a digital platform designed for online engagement and collaboration with all stakeholder groups and at all levels across the international development landscape. It is a space for policy makers, development practitioners and advocates from the public, private, and civil society sectors to think out loud, learn from each other, connect, collaborate, and co-create.



## 2.3 Overview of national consultation process and participation

### 2.3.1 Consultation process

The National Consultations were conducted through a combination of in-person, hybrid and virtual events, as well as through national and local surveys, interviews, and focal group discussions. This diverse consultation process has been supported with the on-line discussion rooms on UNDP's SparkBlue platform, which also served as a one-stop-shop for all consultation materials and events.

Consultations were run between February and May 2022 with the majority of countries conducting their consultations in April-May. The consultations followed several months of preparatory, inception and engagement process outlined above. Countries have appointed national coordinators and focal points responsible above all for the stakeholder mapping and engagement following UNDP's guidance on the inclusive and participatory consultation process.

Over 250 Stockholm+50 national events have taken place until May 2022 across 56 countries with over 50,000 people engaging in-person or virtually.

### 2.3.2 Participation in the National Consultations

At the time of this analysis, 34 countries (60% of total supported countries) presented their preliminary reports with the initial participation statistics. Across these 34 countries over 28,000 participants representing various stakeholder groups took part in the national consultations. Half of the participants were women. **On average, there were around 500 participants per country.**

At the time of this preliminary analysis only one third of all supported countries submitted information on the age of their consultations' participants. In these countries 11% of the participants were younger than 18 years old and 50% were younger than 30 years old. Based on this preliminary participation statistics, youth represented a significant share of the national consultations audience.

Approximately one quarter (25%) of all national consultations participants represented various vulnerable groups including women groups, indigenous people, youth groups, and people with disabilities.

Sectors represented in the Stockholm+50 National Consultations



## 3 Country priorities, innovations, opportunities and challenges

### 3.1 Key themes and sectors

The National Consultations focussed on a range of national priority themes, often aligned to their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and national development plans and strategies. These included: climate challenges, pollution reduction, nature protection and uptake of Nature-based Solutions, environmental education, awareness and capacity building, inequality, indigenous populations and community land

rights, how to better integrate and prioritise the environmental agenda, how to promote the participation of different stakeholders to influence the public debate and agenda, legal reforms, sustainable finance mechanisms, environmental fiscal reforms, the role of local self-government and the business sector in sustainable development and green transition, and improving preparation and implementation of NDCs.

The National Consultations covered a diverse range of sectors including: agriculture, energy, environment (including nature protection and biodiversity), industry, forestry, finance, health, infrastructure and utilities, marine and coastal, mining, transport, tourism, urban development, waste and water.

### 3.2 Challenges discussed

Countries face many challenges in meeting their aspirations around embedding sustainable production and consumption patterns, achieving net zero emissions, adapting and building resilience to climate change and other external shocks (such as COVID-19), creating equal opportunities for all and restoring and regenerating a positive relationship with nature. The key types of challenges discussed in the draft National Consultations are summarised below.

**Weak / inadequate government policies, implementation and monitoring.** Policies and regulations to protect the environment are lacking or weak in some instances. In other cases, good policies and laws exist but there is a lack of implementation of environmental actions and weak enforcement. Implementation is challenged by capacity issues, with political will and the fragility of institutions due to corruption cited as issues for some countries.

**Insufficient coordination and communication between actors and stakeholders involved in the design of public policies.** Siloed decision-making processes prevent the collaboration and coordination between different sectors needed to develop coherent and integrated public policies. The **lack of communication** and dialogue among groups operating in various areas (such as environmental and economic sectors) as well as among the government, the private sector and academia hinders a common understanding on how a country should develop. Adequate participation mechanisms are lacking in the planning and policy design processes. For example, **communities** are not typically engaged in the design of public policies, which is needed to create a conducive working relationship and build co-responsibility at all levels.

**Finance is critical to achieving commitments on climate and nature, but is not in place at the scale required.** Funding is cited as a common challenge and is especially limited at the local level and in remote areas. Financial mechanisms (including incentives) to support the transition to low-carbon production and consumption patterns need to be identified at the national level and supported by transparent financial systems to build trust and make it easier to access international financing. For some countries it is challenging to access funds due to the requirements of donors, banks and credit agencies. It was noted that for countries at their debt ceilings, environmental commitments need to be achieved without causing a high increase in public spending requiring loans. Other challenges related to finance include: (i) poor financial management of sustainable projects; (ii) Lack of capacity among civil society actors to access donor funds; and (iii) Low governmental financial and logistical support for some key sectors such as agriculture and environment.

**Lack of involvement of the private sector in the development and implementation of innovative projects at national and local scale.** Regulations to promote alliances between the private sector and the government are lacking and there are limited opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships in environmental management despite the significant financing gap which can only be addressed through private sector engagement.

**Inclusivity is a challenge; the effective participation of all stakeholders (youth, women) and sectors is often lacking.** Of note: (i) public infrastructure needs further development to meet the needs of those with disabilities; (ii) there is a need to improve public participation and involvement in the policy-making processes and empower indigenous communities, young people, women and vulnerable groups in general to make the decision-making processes more inclusive and tailored to their needs; (iii) in terms of gender, there is for example, limited gender-targeted investment in livelihood and food security systems through Climate smart agriculture technologies and access to resources such as land.

**Insufficient capacity at all levels - central and local government, the private sector, academia.** For example, Government capacity to enforce existing legal framework needs to be strengthened, and there is a lack of knowledge of new technologies and the benefits of their application.

**The need to enhance environmental education and awareness is a dominate theme across the National Consultations.** A collective consciousness of the importance of the environment and a sense of collective responsibility is necessary to accelerate change, but there is limited public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change and environmental challenges in general. A key challenge is ensuring access to environmental education and information for all through a broader base of formal and informal education programs tailored for target groups.

**Lack of data and scientific facilities / infrastructure.** For example, in some cases pollution and air emissions cannot be fully monitoring due to a lack monitoring infrastructure and laboratories.

**Access to affordable and well-functioning health systems and low COVID-19 vaccination rates.** Access to healthcare is particularly challenging in rural areas and COVID19 has disproportionately impacted marginalized and most vulnerable groups.

**Peace and security issues** in some countries.

**More specific areas noted as challenging include:** Protection / sustainable management of water sources; recovery of coastal and marine areas including tackling over-exploitation of fisheries and illegal fishing; Solid waste management (lack of a sustainable waste management system, pollution from landfills, lack of infrastructure for collection and sorting of waste; limited investment in waste management and national uptake of circular economy); (iv) the need to develop infrastructure resilient to climate change; conservation of biodiversity through the Protected Areas Networks and the sustainable use of resources; invasive species; air pollution; land degradation / soil degradation (overgrazing, soil erosion, deforestation, loss of biodiversity); agriculture - insufficient water resources, food security issues, climate change effect on agricultural production through new diseases, pests and changes of rain patterns; High dependence on biomass for cooking which causes deforestation, land degradation including soil erosion and sedimentation of water bodies; the decarbonization of the energy sector and promotion of low-carbon technologies. In [some] countries dependence on fossil fuels remains high while energy efficiency (in buildings and in the public sector) is low. Access to low-carbon energy technologies (such as solar) is limited by know-how, infrastructure; Emission reductions related to the decoupling of economic growth and emissions growth and energy security considerations; rapid and unsustainable urbanizations; identifying practical sustainable income generating opportunities and identifying and upscaling profitable sustainable practices across economic sectors.

### 3.3 Opportunities discussed

Stakeholders hope that the National Consultation process will serve to put pressure on the decision-makers to implement concrete actions to achieve their country's environmental goals.

Critically, members of marginalized and vulnerable groups regard the National Consultations as an opportunity for their voices to be heard and considered at the Stockholm+50 conference and other high-level events. The National Consultations have provided an enabling, rights-based, inclusive environment to address inequalities, support equal opportunities, and reduce poverty. It is an opportunity for the most vulnerable groups to be recognized as agents of change in our societies.

In general, the economic difficulties due to COVID-19 are recognised as also presenting an opportunity to build back better; improvements in the quality of the environment are needed to ensure the basis for a healthy and flourishing society. Key opportunities cited in the draft National Consultations are summarised below:

**Finance:** Consultations participants highlighted the need for introducing fiscal measures (subsidies and taxes) and financial products (banking and/or other) to redirect investment towards more inclusive and sustainable action, and for leveraging the opportunities offered by international financing mechanisms. There is high potential to develop and harness a viable carbon financing / pricing mechanism to support community forestry, rural livelihoods, and national economic development.

**The Private Sector** is willing to collaborate with government to accelerate investment that support the delivery of SDGs and NDC targets. There is the opportunity to improve SMEs engagement in environmental related projects and enhance Public Private Partnership in key sectors of the economy. Private sector finance can support community-driven projects, encouraging communities to invest in becoming stewards of their own resources.

**Multilateralism and international cooperation on global agendas.** Countries cited the alignment of national priorities with MEAs and other international UN conventions that have been ratified, as an opportunity to facilitate financial and technical support from the international community.

**There is the opportunity for vulnerable groups to participate more in national efforts to transition to inclusive green growth.** For example, women should be afforded full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life. It is also important to recognise the value of indigenous (ancestral) knowledge, to support the preservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, and fully engage indigenous groups in decisions.

**Youth are an important resource in the fight against climate change and nature degradation.** Youth activism is gaining momentum as youth become increasingly aware of environment and climate issues. Young people are very motivated to be engaged in various environmental activities and work on various projects at the community and rural levels, such as beach cleaning and reforestation. They provide opportunities to increase environmental awareness countrywide. Young people are also increasingly engaged in developing policies in favor of the environment, communicating with the United Nations, participating in environmental organizations, through online platforms and social networks. Youth possess creativity and adapt themselves easily to digitalization and will help to drive the digital economy. This represents an important opportunity that relevant institutions, including the education sector, should exploit.

**Partnerships.** There are good public, private and community-based partnerships between organizations and individuals working on environment, development and humanitarian issues at the local and international levels, which can be built on to meet climate (mitigation and adaptation) and nature targets. Through the National Consultations many environmental and social organizations and associations engaged with each other for the first time, fostering potential synergies.

**Digitalization and access to environmentally friendly technologies** are important mechanisms for accelerating the transition.

#### **Examples of opportunities for illustrative sectors:**

- **Agriculture:** Shorter food supply chains to build resilience and support local communities / economy.
- **Education:** There is the opportunity to review the education curricula at all levels, to create a deeper understanding of nature, environmental challenges and the role individuals can play in the transition to sustainable and equity growth.
- **Energy:** There is considerable potential in [numerous countries] to develop the renewable energy sector (e.g. solar, biomass and hydro) and the possibility of developing Public Private partnerships (PPPs) to finance projects.
- **Marine:** A blue transition and the sustainable use of marine resources will enable more prosperous societies
- **Tourism:** Promotion of sustainable eco-tourism is seen as a core component of a green and inclusive economic model.
- **Transport / Urban:** Acceleration of the understanding on smart and resilient **cities** with a focus on sustainable transportation and green spaces and their health benefits.

### 3.4 Solutions discussed

**Government commitment.** Environmental protection needs to become a priority for governments and institutions in charge of development and the institutional framework for sustainable development needs to be strengthened. In some cases, good governance and equitable practices depends on the elimination of corruption.

**Decentralisation / Local communities.** Participants of the national consultations proposed to:

- Accelerate the decentralization process and support the capacity development of local authorities.
- Align international goals with the national and local planning process.
- Support organisations at the sub-national level to articulate project opportunities to investors, and provide funding for pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.

**Strengthen monitoring and compliance.** The establishment of centralized monitoring frameworks, based on measurable, verifiable and enforceable performance indicators.

**Finance and investments.** There is a need to fast track stable sustainable financing at scale and to direct investments in a way that achieves sustainable and inclusive economic development. Specific opportunities highlighted include:

- Facilitate access to finances for private companies and empower triple-impact entrepreneurs and small local producers;
- Support investments in green energy solutions and energy efficiency (wind, biogas, solar, tidal power, waste), sustainable transport, green areas (especially in urban areas), Nature-based Solutions, sustainable livelihood system
- Reformulate economic incentives and subsidies;
- Support financing for innovative proposals / start-ups (public and private) to achieve sustainability goals and meet local challenges;
- More inclusive distribution of funding sources. Encourage and fund community-led and rural projects.

- Mandatory establishment and funding of macro programs and projects that conserve the environment;
- Mobilize funding through the Global Environment Facility and other global environmental funds;
- Develop a strategy to mobilize sustainable / climate finance that aligns with national developmental aspiration;
- Develop pilot concepts, projects and initiatives, with a view of replication on a larger scale.

### **Collaboration and Partnerships**

- Improve intersectoral collaboration and coordination between governmental agencies
- Improve inclusivity through greater collaboration with communities in policy formulation
- Expand local and international partnerships on environment issues, aiming at exchanging experiences and implementing joint projects.
- Develop partnerships to facilitate the transfer of technologies and know-how
- Develop relationship and dialogue between Government and the Private Sector.

### **Inclusivity**

- Ensure civil society including vulnerable groups (women, youth, Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC), people with disabilities) full participation in environmental decisions at all levels and participation in the design, implementation, monitoring of programmes and projects.
- Increase involvement of local and indigenous communities in promoting sustainable and healthy practices
- Create dialogue platforms.
- Improve opportunities for youth, including job creation, with focus on youth-driven solutions for inclusive COVID recovery.

### **Data management and accelerated transition to digital transformation**

- Publicize timely and disaggregated data for evidence-based decision making, analysis and monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure access to environmental information

**Environmental education offers the opportunities to develop understanding and broaden consensus and buy-in around environmental / sustainable development issues.** It is central to the achievement of a whole-of-society transformation towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns – changing behaviour and mindset to live in harmony with nature. Inclusive, targeted and accessible environmental education programs should be introduced at multiple levels and for all sectors of the population. Specific opportunities cited include: (i) inclusion / development of environmental education in the school and university curriculum; and, (ii) strengthening the awareness-raising work of youth organizations.

### **Capacity development**

- Provision of training and capacity building across sectors at various levels
- Unlock and promote high-tech jobs/skills to support both the supply and demand-side of the technology sector as an enabler as well as source of jobs, exports and investments.
- Capacity building on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at all levels.
- Training of journalists and researchers

### **COVID-19.**

- Increase COVID-19 vaccination rates through increased community awareness
- Support recovery in key COVID-affected sectors and value chains

## Examples of sectoral solutions:

### Agriculture

- Support along the value chain - Investment in production (e.g. improved technology for seed production), processing (e.g. post-harvest technology and mechanisms of food and facilities) and marketing, and specialized training along the value chain
- Facilitate access to agricultural inputs and production factors for vulnerable groups.
- Promote sustainable agricultural systems linked to sustainable water and land management. For example, accelerate investments in soil conservation agriculture employing no tillage methods, anti-erosive measures, afforestation, and reforestation aimed to increase soil quality
- Valorise local green products,
- Incentivise local food production to reduce imports and increase food security

### Cities / Urban

- Develop infrastructure for cities that ensures safe, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive environment

### Coastal and Marine

- Provide technical skills and fishing equipment to small scale fisheries.
- Develop and implement interventions to promote marine protected areas
- Sustainable management of coastal resources and promotion of eco-friendly tourism
- Increase water conservation practices across coastal communities

### Energy

- Improve the energy mix with increase in renewables;
- Accelerate the transition to sustainable energy practices, for example through development of the enabling environment including incentives for clean energy sources;
- Popularize improved stoves and butane gas.

### Environment / Biodiversity

- Promote participatory land use planning and the role of indigenous and local communities in the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation

### Forests

- Reforestation and development of land use plans.

### Waste:

- Build the capacity of stakeholders in waste management and recovery.
- Implement an effective public policy for managing residues and waste that encompasses the participation and involvement of all sectors (companies, local governments, citizens) and that has environmental education, equality, and human rights as a cross-cutting axis.
- Encourage international partnerships to promote waste management (e.g. returning end-of-life vehicles to the manufacturer)
- Eliminate single use plastic products and plastic pollution
- Establish safe and healthy wastewater management plants and infrastructure,
- Adopt modern methods of solid waste management, to decrease the negative impact on natural resources.
- Recognise the benefits to the health sector from improved waste management

### Water:

- Develop National Water Strategies, accounting on drinking water use, production monitoring of water quality
- Conserve lakes and rivers.
- Develop policies and laws on **glaciers** and undertake more scientific studies.

## 4 National Perspectives on Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues

### 4.1 Leadership Dialogue 1. 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?

The requirements to restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature are summarised below.

**Awareness raising and education** is identified as a critical to restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature. Comprehensive and cross-cutting environmental education is needed, especially of young people, to modify consumption habits and build societal support for sustainable and inclusive growth.

#### Institutional measures

- Implement policies and strategies to preserve and restore ecosystems
- Impose rules and regulations on big companies and high taxes on carbon and water.
- Adopt and enforce environmental protection laws to move toward carbon neutrality.
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Comply with environmental commitments and responsibilities
- Move beyond GDP as a measure of progress.
- Promote new economic models that allow for an energy transition and adopt a circular economy model in all areas of consumption and production

#### Finance

- Enhanced financial systems to conserve, restore, and protect natural resource
- Resource mobilization that supports and accelerates investments in restoration and averts land degradation, deforestation, and air/water pollution

#### Promoting inclusivity

- **Stronger and more inclusive involvement of local communities** in restoring and conserving the natural landscape is essential to achieve a positive relationship with nature.
- The need to recognize and value indigenous ancestral practices and cultures in terms of the use and conservation of natural resources was emphasised
- Strengthen women's leadership for their participation in dialogue and decision-making
- Incorporate effective participation mechanisms with local actors with cross-cutting gender and intercultural approaches.

#### Data / Research

- Enhanced data and evidence-base, and analysis of the state and management of natural resources to inform decision making.

#### Co-ordination and partnerships

- Strengthen inter-sector collaboration and coordination, and create linkages between government, the private sector and academia,



## Examples of proposed sectoral measures:

### Agriculture

- Improve mechanisms to connect consumers to sustainable agriculture.
- Promote sustainable, regenerative, and climate-smart agricultural practices that reconcile the needs of increased productivity and environment protection. For example,
  - Replace chemical fertilisers and pesticides with natural bio-products to support the production of organic products, regenerative agriculture and bee-keeping
  - Promote agro-ecological farming in local communities to reduce vulnerability to climate change
  - Accelerate investments in soil conscious conservation agriculture employing no tillage methods, anti-erosive measures, afforestation, and reforestation aimed to increase soil organic carbon.

### Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation / natural resources management

- Promote **nature-based solutions** and ecosystem-based management in all sectors and provinces. Nature-based solutions (NBS) present opportunities to conserve ecosystems outside of protected areas and can be complemented by improved management of the PA network.
- Increase the number of protected areas.
- Strengthen management of protected areas, including incomes for local communities, protection and conservation of biodiversity, and promoting the ecological integrity of ecosystem services which underpin the viability of key productive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and industry.
- Restore / rehabilitate terrestrial and coastal ecosystems .
- Plant endemic trees and mangrove forests.
- Reinforce institutional and regulatory frameworks to protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs), Marine Protected Areas and fishing reserves.
- Reduce the proliferation of plastics on land and in waters to protect human health and marine biodiversity.

### Energy

- Develop, promote and invest in clean energies.

### Forests

- Design programs that better protect forests.
- Invest in re-generative forestry by mainstreaming reforestation, afforestation and restoration in degraded landscapes and provide green jobs for women and youth.
- Support citizen reforestation and agroforestry initiatives.

### Waste management

- Develop supporting infrastructures for the application of the 5 Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle), to move towards a circular economy.
- Strengthen waste recycling, instilling waste management tools at the household level.
- Encourage private sector to complement the efforts of the government in the recycling of the waste.
- Strengthen regulations to implement measures based on an integrated waste management model and circular economy.
- Improve effluent treatment.

## Good practices and pathways that partners would like to see scaled up to enable a move to a healthy planet?

### Institutional

- Support for environmental governance of developing countries
- Stricter sanctions for environmental violations and improved enforcement.
- Collaboration of all players – government, business, academia, the local population, etc. is crucial for a healthier planet
- Develop and approve for plans for key cities that address environmental security and climate sustainability

### Education and raising awareness for a whole-of-society transformation.

- Public campaigns on biodiversity protection on public transportation to promote understanding and encourage participation;
- Promoting the role of digital media in disseminating and promoting biodiversity conservation and climate change concepts;
- Support to the retail industry to educate consumers, change behaviors, and shape “consumer communities” that advocate climate action, encourage exchange of personal experiences, and create fashion/culture around a low-carbon lifestyle.
- The use of audio-visual support, such as documentaries and TVs;
- The development of school curricula to ensure greater awareness of the merits of policies aimed at achieving the environmental dimension of sustainable development
- Promote activities such as tree planting, home gardening, community awareness, traditional practices and community watch in schools
- On-site educational events in protected areas
- Public awareness of the threats of mining to the environment should be increased through the dissemination of information concerning these threats and how they can be mitigated. This information should be summarized in maps of the concerned areas.

### Private sector

- Increase awareness among the private sector vis-à-vis their social responsibility and, oblige them to take care of the surroundings of their business areas (i.e., creating green spaces).

### Community scale management of natural resources, supporting local initiatives and engaging local populations

- Creation of community groups and committees organised to mitigate and adapt to climate change and take care of the environment (e.g. avoid burning and cutting down trees, prevent people from killing animals and carrying out indiscriminate hunting, conservation and protection of valuable plantations such as sandalwood, coffee and palms)
- Community-based initiatives such as gardening, clean ups, tree planting/fire prevention, traditional fishing management
- Generation of income for the local population through increasing employment opportunities

### Other

- Effective, science-based and law-based pollution control system;
- Improvement of labelled ecological products;
- Research on climate change impacts on agriculture and precipitation

## **Sector-specific initiatives include:**

### **Agriculture**

- Green and climate resilient agriculture
- Sustainable family farming, aimed at transforming production and consumption practices, reduction and/or elimination in the use of agrochemicals and renewable energy sources on small-scale farms.
- Plant 100% organic products to conserve the natural land, and generate fertilizers.
- Implement public policies that integrate ancestral knowledge and ensure sustainable agricultural production systems
- Kitchen, roof-top and backyard domestic gardening and reduction of food wastes to achieve food self-sufficiency;
- Training for youth on new and organic farming techniques;
- Enhanced government support and protection of farmers and their products, particularly those who work in the organic farming sector, through laws and regulations, financial and logistical support for farmers;
- Development of climate smart agricultural practices,
- Introduction of seed banks
- Improving agricultural practices including traditional slash-and-burn method to better manage the soil and water resources, and protect our environment.

### **Coastal and marine**

- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs),
- Coral reef monitoring
- Protection of mangroves.
- Ridge to Reef (R2R) project which has an ecosystem-based approach and supports communities and agencies in sustainable land management
- Restoration of coastal ecosystems including coral farming and artificial reefs

### **Energy**

- Production and use of renewable energies
- Development of sustainable energy infrastructure and solar mini-grids
- Promotion of improved stoves
- the implementation of low-carbon technologies aimed at reducing dependence on hydrocarbons, including electric transport

### **Forestry**

- Reforestation actions
- The practice planting one or two timber or fruit trees each time a tree is cut down in indigenous territory
- Restoration of critical biological and cultural sites by implementing tree planting
- Civil society and church involvement in the plantation of trees campaigns.

### **Natural Resources Management**

- The creation of biosphere reserves which can promote climate smart initiatives
- Introduction of rotational use of pastures (conservation of degraded pastures) to reduce degradation and preserve the ecosystem)
- Sustainable land management (promotion of organic fertilizers, assisted natural regeneration, land tenure and security, reforestation / soil restoration).

## Waste

- Expansion of successful recycling programs through the 3Rs mandate. The promotion of selective sorting and recycling, as practices that can also favour the integration of people with disabilities;
- Promotion of practices that encourage energy efficiency;
- Civil society and church involvement in the cleaning campaigns
- Circular waste management
- Separation of waste by installing recycling stations, creating neighbourhood compost bins, so that in each community there is a practical service supported by leaders in each location
- Converting green waste to mulch, conversion of piggeries to dry litter system
- Anti-litter programs
- Implementing financial schemes with opportunities to generate income for the community
- Partnerships with companies to return or better dispose of junk vehicles and tightening import regulations
- Introduction of low-waste and non-waste technologies
- Waste valorization and transformation

## Transport / Urban

- Increased use of sustainable public transport (metro, bus) and electric vehicles, to reduce consumption of fossil fuels and improve air quality
- Increased use of green private transportation that cause no negative impact on nature (bikes, e-bikes and e-cars)
- Promote active mobility, especially through creating an infrastructure for cycling to promote a healthy lifestyle and reduce pollution
- Investing in low-carbon sustainable cities
- Sustainable infrastructure construction

## Water

- Introduction of technologies aimed at improving water accounting in the irrigation networks to increase transparency in the use of irrigation water.
- Increase implementation of water conservation projects, in particular rainwater collection/harvesting as implemented by local NGOs, to provide alternatives for coastal communities to access to clean water.
- Conservation of glaciers.

## What are the actions that your country/partners would take to scale up the change towards a healthy planet?

### Institutional

- There is a need to change the development model to foster low-carbon and circular development for a new economic structure based on new competitive advantages and driving forces, higher energy and resources efficiency and a circularity approach
- Adoption of an **integrated vision** based on discussions with all actors and stakeholders - public administration executives, civil society, academia and the private sector, and supported by monitoring and evaluation indicators
- Update the existing texts and laws on the protection of the environment and climate change where appropriate and ensure polices align with multinational agreements.

- Promotion of a holistic approach, focusing on ecosystems as a whole and interlinkages among them.
- **Establishment of a standardized monitoring framework** that encourages investment in projects that promote the transition to a green economy;
- Implementation of policies that are already in place through community outreach, and funding mobilization.
- Enforcement of environmental laws and development of stricter procedures and clear regulations and deterrents. Law enforcement must be a part of an inclusive and cross-sectoral plan at the national level, through which governmental and nongovernmental organizations work together to protect nature.
- Reduce and regulate the use of pollutants.
- Boost carbon sinks and improve adaptability and nature-based solutions.

### Finance

- Scale up funding in general.
- Scale up investment in Protected Area Trust funds to ensure Protected Area viability.
- Facilitate access to national financing for civil society actors, so that they can support government action to achieve the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- Banking sector should play a greater role in supporting the transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns.

### Co-ordination and cooperation

- **Stronger coordination** between national and local government, enhancing support for the design and implementation of regulations and standards at the local level;
- Stronger coordination and exchanges between industry, international institutions and research, in particular on non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHGs.
- **Strengthen international experience sharing** on protection and restoration measures, principles and standards, nature-based solutions and international best practices.
- Increase participation of women, people with disabilities and youth led organizations
- Create / strengthen the dialogue frameworks in the field of environmental protection.

### Education and awareness

- Importance of learning from examples/experiences as a way of changing the mindset from exploitation to conservation.
- Need for more climate awareness programs.
- Improved sensitization and behavioural change at individual and collective levels e.g. use of refill products, domestic gardening and avoidance of food wastage

### Inclusiveness and community empowerment

- Community ownership of environmental programs such as tree planting
- Revive traditional wisdom / ancestral practices as a means of moving towards a healthy planet (e.g. supporting traditional sustainable practices in agriculture and fishing).
- Invest in community based-eco-friendly restoration, reforestation and protection of wetlands
- Involve farmers and foresters in restoration and sustainable land management actions.

### Data and Planning

- Develop integrated spatial planning, encompassing nature conservation, carbon reduction and carbon sink enhancement. Strengthen land cadastre to generate data to aid decision makers.
- Develop and update integrated land use plans, urban planning master plans and integrated water resource management (IWRM) plans.

## Sector specific actions are summarised below:

### Agriculture

- local production could be enhanced by implementing traditional fertilization and pest management, replacing chemical inputs and reducing consumption of imported goods
- Soil restoration
- Promote strong agriculture practices for crop rotation/ organic farming and invest in localized irrigation strategies to use in agriculture to reduce climate shocks

### Coastal and Marine

- Coral farming
- Enhance coastal zone protection and management

### Energy

- Restructure the energy system, through a phase out of coal, gas and oil.
- Incentives for clean energy solutions / energy efficiency
- Popularize renewable energy and electric cars
- Increase investment in alternative energy sources
- Support large-scale renewable energy projects in deserts and protected areas,.

### Forestry

- Reduce deforestation using biofuel, improved stoves, the promotion of renewable energy, land clearing, overgrazing, bush fires and the regulation of gold panning

### Transport

- Develop mass green transport in urban areas

### Waste management issues

- Support implementation of the 3R system (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and a Circular Economy
- Reduce or eliminate the use of single-use plastics, packaging, bags
- Expand skills on waste recycling and provide incentives for small recycling initiatives
- Increase the resources and capacity of waste collection and transportation at municipal level, to promote the health of societies and create pathways towards cleaner and greener cities.
- Enforce fines

### Water

- Water conservation
- Address water security at local, regional and global levels, through a fair distribution and an efficient usage of the water resources.

## What policies/structures need to be in place for you to take such action?

### Institutional

- Setting the environment and its protection as a national priority. It was stated that “if the environment is not prioritized and if the work of people operating in this field [e.g. forest rangers] is not properly valued, there will be little demand for these jobs.”
- Development and/or elaboration of effective and transparent public policies that embed a climate and sustainability approach and can guide investment towards actions and projects with a high commitment to environmental and social responsibility and fully support a transformation to sustainable production;
- Create policies that are inclusive and transparent thus allowing the empowerment of vulnerable groups.

- Implementation needs to be strengthened. Support from partners is needed to assist in the implementation of policies and enhance capacity and resourcing of public institutions.
- Improve the existing legislative and regulatory framework on the environment and ensure its effective and rigorous application, which requires strengthening the capacities of relevant authorities.
- Strengthen monitoring and enforcement
- Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation among ministers and other authorities in policy-making processes, to ensure mainstreaming of environmental requirements across the policy landscape.
- Development of measures aimed at strengthening community resilience and improving the living conditions of populations

### Finance

- Mechanisms for accessing international climate finance are challenging. They are seen as slow, complex, resource intensive, uncertain and project based. Establishing a stable and sustainable financing mechanism is a key precondition for improving the health of the planet.
- National Green Funds were suggested as a possible mechanism for generating finance
- Funds should be collected through the polluter-pays principle and used to remediate damage to nature.
- **Value and quantify environmental damage**, to support application of sanctions and/or tariffs related to the consumption or misuse of natural resources.
- Involve the private sector in the financing of NDCs.

### Coordination

- Greater coordination among all sectors of society
- Strengthen the involvement of communities in the process of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects / programs on the environment
- Establish multi-stakeholder and inclusive frameworks for coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
- Strengthen intersectoral coordination mechanisms at government levels (local, regional, and national) and with universities and local communities. These structures should allow all stakeholders to technically and financially fulfil their functions and responsibilities.
- Support the structuring of a strong and responsible civil society for citizen control of public action;
- Create a sharing platform of experiences on good practices for a healthy planet, at the national, regional and international level.

### Awareness

- **Public environmental information** must be made available and accessible to all. Stakeholders should be informed about the mechanisms for consultation and have access to information.
- Use of campaigns to raise people's awareness regarding environment issues and the importance of protecting nature, implemented in collaboration with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations, schools, universities and community-based organizations. These campaigns can benefit from social media platforms which guarantee easy and quick access to the population.

### Education and capacity building

- **Investing in environmental education and education on sustainability and the SDGs is a key action** countries should take in order to contribute to positive changes towards a healthy planet. It was noted that schools have the opportunity to influence not only their students, but also students' families.

- Training for government officials to develop their technical skills and facilitate the creation of better environmental public policies.
- **Strengthening capacities of government** and leaders at local and national levels through the exchange of good practices and successful initiatives between local and international communities and the use of the best tools for land planning and risk management, especially for areas highly vulnerable to climate risks.
- **Strengthen the capacities of local communities** related to environmentally friendly practices and build livelihoods through the promotion of green jobs (that will also reduce the strain on urban areas);
- Supporting farmers' organizations and NGOs.

#### Data management and research

- Develop centralised database for monitoring purposes to enable coordination of monitoring systems of various ministries and agencies and the provision of timely information required for making environmental decisions.
- Publishing the results of all environmental and climate change projects on a single e-portal to ensure institutional memory.
- Engage the scientific community more in the policy-making processes through the promotion of science to policy interface forums for evidence-based decision making. Decisions have to be driven by scientific analyses and evidence, while the results of scientific research should be more transparent and available for all interested parties.
- Increased investment in research institutes to support knowledge-based policies.

#### Selected sector specific needs are summarised below:

##### Agriculture

- introduce an agricultural insurance system in the zones where farming is risky (e.g. distant pastures used for cattle breeding);
- strengthen the work on national environmental, organic standards and norms in the field of agricultural production and food security;

##### Sustainable cities

- In order to build safe and eco-friendly cities, the government should increase green standards and norms and stimulate the creation and expansion of green areas / belts in and around cities.

##### Waste

- stimulate the creation of enterprises for recycling, waste management, the introduction of low-waste and non-waste technologies.

#### 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 vulnerable are most effected by the loss and degradation of nature. However, it was noted that while indigenous communities can be considered vulnerable, at the same time they have the possibility of living outside the traditional economy, which can be source of wealth and well-being for them. Their high ethic regarding respect for Mother Earth and traditional knowledge contributes enormously to the protection of nature.



## Governance

- Governance is the primary means for marginalized and vulnerable groups to benefit from environmental policies and initiatives. It is necessary to promote specific regulations and plans with vulnerable groups that articulate the environment and development. Better inclusion of vulnerable groups is needed in policy documents, such as the NDC, and policies and strategies should be reviewed to ensure that the specific needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups are considered
- Establish a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of public policies aimed at vulnerable groups, based on measurable, verifiable and applicable indicators.

## Engagement

- Active involvement of the vulnerable in the decision-making process and actions. There must be a participatory and inclusive co-design of policies. A bottom up approach should be promoted (that captures ancestral knowledge, cultural factors and traditional governance systems), to empower vulnerable communities and vulnerable groups (youth, women, people with disabilities, refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDP)) to increase their active participation in governance and to create a new cultural framework based on environmental protection and care.
- Vulnerable communities need to be empowered through capacity building and access to finance to mainstream sustainable development in community-based projects and social entrepreneurships
- It is important to engage vulnerable groups and communities and integrate their knowledge and experience in adaptation planning and implementation and mitigation plans.
- Create a national/regional/community multi-sector and multi-stakeholder platforms for the protection and preservation of the environment
- Joint projects could be coordinated with university research departments to ensure that projects respond to the community's needs.
- Translate and popularize policy documents and strategies for their appropriation by all vulnerable groups
- A communication strategy should be developed considering all vulnerable people, and their participation in workshops promoted.

## Promote livelihoods and benefit sharing

- Creating sustainable income generating opportunities. A critical challenge is the creation of green and sustainable income-generating activities for vulnerable groups.
- Develop incentives to promote the inclusive participation of vulnerable groups in environmental policies and initiatives (e.g. access to credit, land, housing, property, basic social services, employment).
- Establish innovative financing mechanisms, including payments for ecosystem services
- Initiate, implement and evaluate social safety net programs for vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, women, youth, widows, the elderly, refugees, internally displaced persons and other marginalized groups) according to the "leave no one behind" principle
- PAs and indigenous communities. Ensure that in formulating laws or decrees indigenous populations are not left out. It is critical to work with indigenous peoples and guarantee laws do not affect the rights of the populations involved. Ensure that indigenous people have the right to free, prior, and informed consent for any activities on indigenous land, and are equipped with the tools to oppose anything they disagree with.
- Strengthen the capacities of women and young people on good agricultural practices (agricultural techniques, simplified accounting, selling strategies etc.);
- Promote and popularize energy efficiency practices (promotion of clean cooking)
- Organize competitions between neighbourhoods, schools, universities, towns and provide awards and grants to the healthier and cleaner environment.

### Support for SMEs.

- SMEs are a key to ensuring GHG reductions but have a comparatively weak position relative to large companies. Therefore, specific platforms should be created that support these enterprises with participation and financial support from international organizations such as UNDP and UNEP.
- Support the access to finance for small and medium businesses through VSLA (village saving loan association).
- Invest in small business for at-risk youths

### Education and awareness.

- Promotion of eco-friendly lifestyles is key. Awareness raising is needed on microplastics, climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity.
- Investment in improved and more accessible education.
- Facilitate knowledge acquisition and environmentally friendly technologies
- Create “communication bridges” between different vulnerable groups.
- A possible policy on women quotas for universities (environment, ecology majors) in order to build gender-balanced participation and representation in ecological decision-making.
- Special training for women in rural areas and provision of green jobs as a means of raising the ecological stability of future generations. Promoting the green economy and providing jobs in this field for women in rural areas

### Research

- Identifying vulnerable groups and undertake a vulnerability mapping. Marginalised groups often live in regions exposed to climate change impacts such as flooding and sea-level rise. Geographical Targeting and Mapping will help to identify priority regions for urgent adaptation infrastructure and measures planned in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that will help to avoid damages from extreme events.
- Vulnerable groups will benefit from vulnerability assessment and analysis related to their crops and from activity planning nature-based solutions and improved food security.
- Support academic institutions to undertake research on how the climate change affects children and future generations.
- Invest in gender research, to promote the contribution of women to environmental protection.
- Disaggregated data on consequences of climate change and nature between men and women and other vulnerable groups.

### People with disabilities

- People with disabilities are more vulnerable to climate change and a degraded environment and pollution can more severely affect their health.
- Information about the environment for people with disabilities should be specifically tailored for particular groups (e.g., information in braille for people with poor vision).
- It is important to tailor sustainable housing for people with disabilities. This could include the installation of self-sustained energy systems (i.e., solar panels) and developing energy efficient infrastructure (i.e., insulation).

### Other initiatives

- The availability of green spaces and infrastructure in urban areas and the importance of “universal design” responding to the needs of all people at all stages of life is seen as important for the quality of life of all people and, especially, for vulnerable groups.
- Enhance the health sector’s capacity for future outbreaks and increase campaign on vaccination for COVID
- To achieve transformative change at scale, it is key to value ecosystem services

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

There are a number of international (e.g. SDGs, Agenda 21) and national programs with defined metrics to track progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet. SDGs metrics and indicators are viewed as too broad need to be adapted to national contexts (which has occurred in some countries) and do not necessarily best reflection of progress on sustainable development.

### Recommendations

- Refining GDP as a measure of progress. There is a need to change what we measure to reflect human and social objectives more accurately, for instance from GDP to metrics that explain overall well-being such as happiness, healthcare, education quality and social welfare.
- There is also a case to be made for natural capital accounting.
- SDGs include a broad set of indicators which government should take greater efforts to internalize in policy frameworks for a healthier and prosperous planet. However, some feel the SDGs are too complicated for most people to understand or remember and simpler metrics are needed.
- Set up a transparent national / public accounting system and database to facilitate the prioritization of actions and funding allocations, supported by a range of institutions and organizations.
- Create a governmental body, including academics, whose mission would be to collect the data necessary to undertake the analysis needed to guide the action of public authorities to achieve sustainable development. There is a lack of up-to-date data and technical information on the environment, which prevents a clear picture on the state of the environment.
- Establish a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system which is a set of processes and procedures that allow for the collection and reporting of information (data), its evaluation and verification to determine if, when and how countries have met their targets.
- Communities and vulnerable groups should be involved in the development of the projects and suitable monitoring indicators.
- Build the capacity of the stakeholders to measure and monitor indicators
- Local governments play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs and progress towards a healthier planet. There is a need to strengthen vertical cooperation (between municipalities and national authorities) and support monitoring the progress achieved at local level
- Essential to have a budget for monitoring.

## 4.2 Leadership Dialogue 2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the 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?

The most promising practices for a sustainable and inclusive recovery include: the move to sustainable energy practices, creation of innovative green jobs, reduction in the consumption of plastics, adopting responsible consumption patterns, incorporating and institutionalizing best practices for sustainable urban development, improving value chain performance and revenues, mobilization of financial resources for the research and development of value-

added products, organic agriculture, green (public) procurement, energy labelling and eco-design frameworks, the provision of incentives (for local communities) to promote the conservation of natural resources, increased transparency, fair competition and social responsibility.

### **Teleworking / home-working**

- Teleworking ensured continuity for private, public and government institutions during the pandemic, while substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation sector, and is seen as a sustainable recovery practice that should be continued where possible.

### **Finance / Investment**

- Government to varying degrees rolled out fiscal stimulus measures to support vulnerable groups and assist the recovery of economic activities during the pandemic. These included cash transfers, travel subsidies, medical services funding support. National Governments supported local companies through loans or the option to defer tax payments
- Electronic payments, digital wallets, and e-savings can help create inclusion, equitable and sustainable financing environment.
- Financing, from international institutions, such as the World Bank, supported recovery efforts
- The key focus is on increasing investments supporting a green transition, upgrading the role of private sector and creating more jobs and the growth of existing businesses
- Sustainable budget planning and financing.
- The Government in partnership with the different organizations should invest in green recovery practices and in digital infrastructure (connectivity, high computing infrastructure, devices)
- Introduction of ESG (environmental, social, and governance) and sustainability linked bonds.

### **Investments in digital infrastructure / use and access of new information technologies**

- The emergence of a 'digital lifestyle' as a recovery practice during lockdown in the areas of education, commerce, government services and food and medicine delivery marked a shift for many individuals and organizations. However, the inability of some people to access digital technology during lockdown made people vulnerable. For example, it prevented many students from pursuing their education when schools adapted to offering on-line lessons, and many patients from receiving their medicine. Thus, it is essential to develop access to digital technologies as part of the green recovery.
- Government and educational institutions should invest more on the online teaching mechanisms to be used in future crisis.
- Promote digitalization and internet access for all, especially in rural areas. General use of computer equipment, (i.e. laptops) can be enabled by incentives to ensure access to all;
- In general, digital technologies create more opportunities for youth to work remotely and to generate income.
- Interventions in the technology and innovation sector can increase productivity, address the challenges brought on by the pandemic and fast-track economic recovery For example: (i) Driving the adoption of ICT for all businesses and citizens by scaling up existing e-government and private sector digitization efforts including e-Commerce Platforms and Digital Payments and digital marketing
- Need for supercomputers, for modeling the impacts of various environmental crises (climate change, loss of biological diversity, desertification, water stress, land degradation, etc.). Measures should be supported by incentives (including fiscal incentives).

### Actions supporting inclusivity

- It is important to develop actions aimed at the socioeconomic development and empowerment of vulnerable groups. These could include job fairs focused on youth and women, improving the participation of women (co-operatives) and youth in productive processes, courses on the use of clean energy
- Women groups adapted to new types of livelihood, for example, related to tourism, bartering seeds and food, creating spaces for information on traditional medicine, manufacture of sanitary kits (Hydroalcoholic gel, mask and soap) to fight against COVID-19
- Sustainable fishing activities empowering communities to use their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to improve food and nutrition security.
- The application of ancestral knowledge and the inclusion of traditional knowledge in education
- Measures to protect and support the vulnerable and disabled. For example, wage assistance schemes, capacity building and loans to invest in an inclusive and green recovery
- Improved support and access to finance for SMEs, women and youth entrepreneurs, especially in agricultural projects.
- Encourage the greening of existing and the emergence of new and innovative SME's, by boosting local production, green businesses and promoting alternative livelihoods.
- There are examples of local youth groups using the COVID lockdown to increase agricultural production and expand ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. Such initiatives can be scaled up with the support of the government and relevant development partners.

### Health

- Invest in and strengthen the health sector to increase its resilience and responsiveness. For example, strengthening emergency health services with PPE and oxygen cylinders
- Development of online health services.
- Leverage Technology and Data Collection tools to adopt data-driven approaches and inform Covid-19 containment strategies and economic recovery. The establishment of digital platforms for daily monitoring of Covid-19 cases i to be able to track the impact of the pandemic in real time and organize services accordingly.
- Continue vaccination and sanitary protection measures and vaccination awareness to achieve community immunity.
- Development of COVID-19 sanitation protocols along with communities. Awareness and advocacy on Covid risk targeting the poor and marginalized people.
- **Increase in hygiene and health awareness:** WASH programs implemented at schools and other activities in collaboration with UNICEF working at household levels and with traditional leaders.

### Other

- **Household food and nutrition security:** establishing home / kitchen gardens with traditional medicinal plants and trees, utilizing local and organic inputs for fertilization and pest management, and introducing healthy diets
- Promote consumption of local goods to reduce reliance on imports and possible delays and restrictions and to support local economies and communities.
- Technical support, training programs for producers on the ground, including the use of innovative technologies, are key to achieve a sustainable recovery from COVID-19.
- Shift to environmentally and culturally conscious tourism that emphasizes responsible and more conscious tourists willing to invest in the local economy and respect the environment and culture.
- Training waste pickers on Occupational Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, to work as door-to-door waste collectors

- Development of new post-COVID waste management channels;
- Stimulus for infrastructure facilities improvement.
- Improve public transportation systems including increased number and efficiency of buses, linkage with payment system and better IT platform (application) for fleet management.

## What recovery and pre-existing practises need to be changed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery?

### Governance

- Development of pre-emptive plans to deal with future crisis by Government and non-governmental organizations , e.g. digital training for employees, students, teachers to help them fulfil their tasks remotely.
- Establish a system to compensate the negatively affected and most vulnerable employees of future crisis
- Conserve natural capital
- Green procurement processes and construction projects to comply with sustainable practices
- Greater emphasis on energy and resource efficiency initiatives, and stopping the construction of fossil fuel power plants
- Active implementation of evidence-based approaches in decision-making on the development of key sectors of the economy.

### Inclusivity

- Generate mechanisms that mitigate the adverse effects of the economic crisis on the livelihoods of the most economically vulnerable people. For example, adaptation of wage assistance schemes and welfare benefits (old age pensions, free transport) for better equity and inclusiveness
- Loans for marginalized groups to support their investment in agricultural sector, and ensure a sustainable income
- Increase number of and accessibility to green spaces, especially for senior members of communities and people with disabilities.
- Reduce disparity in education due t the unequal access to digitalisation
- Increases stakeholder consultations in decision making process, bearing in mind that vulnerable groups will have been affected differently by the pandemic.
- Special consideration to MSMEs, especially those led by youth and women, through financial and technological support (including incentives).

### Co- ordination

- Design public policies in a coordinated manner, between the different actors and stakeholders (government, associations, scientists, public and private economic sector).

### Capacity

- Increase the capacity of institutions to comply with multilateral environmental treaties.
- Expansion of environmental awareness and education
- Vocational education should become more inclusive and aimed at building a workforce committed to achieving sustainable development.

### Economic development and Job creation

- Promote a circular economy Rethink and redesign product creation and marketing strategies, so that they can be developed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner;

- Generate strategies that encourage local purchases, with decent prices, both for the people who buy the goods and for the entrepreneurs, and easy access to financing plans for eco-friendly projects
- Employment is key to improving the well-being of the population, including the most vulnerable groups - youth, women, persons with disabilities, rural residents and others. The recovery of economic activity after the pandemic, provides the opportunity to focus on expanding and creating new “green” jobs in sectors such as: agriculture, energy, tourism, transport, construction, IT industry, creative economy, manufacturing and waste recycling
- Develop small and medium-sized businesses, including cafes / shops with the principle of "zero waste"
- Development partnerships with the banking sector, to facilitate investment in the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy. Implementation of ESG principle;
- Incorporate climate and environmental risks in investments and the analysis of financial performance. These investments should incentivize the creation of jobs and reactivate inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
- Promote digitalisation and increased internet access at lower costs

### COVID / Health

- In some countries to reduce border restrictions and best prepare for recovery, vaccination rates need to increase.
- At the global level, more equitable access to vaccines and support to improve the preparedness of poorer countries to reach their most vulnerable citizens is required.
- In some counties vaccine rejection rates are high due to misinformation, hence, improving community awareness is key (including awareness on sanitary precaution measures)
- An increase in mental health issues, especially in children and an increase in domestic violence due to lockdowns was noted, both requiring an increase in resources to address.

### Agriculture

- Replace conventional agricultural models with environmentally friendly agricultural models that do not depend on pesticides and fertilizers,
- Reduce dependence on agricultural inputs and products from other countries, and promote local production in order to improve food and nutrition security. (For example replacing imported rice, with local products such as breadfruit and taro).
- Encourage use of ICT and innovative technics (e.g. through tax exemption) to strengthen the resilience of the sector (satellites, drones, sensors)
- Support local farmers who are looking to restart their business at a time of price inflation

### How do we ensure that all countries/communities can benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition?

Environmental crises do not exclude any country; transition to a green, inclusive and sustainable economy is a global issue. There is a need for an increase in the ambition of global environmental action, while ensuring that differences in national capacities and contexts are taken into account.

### Role of international community and access to donor finance

- International organizations play a crucial role in international cooperation. The current mechanisms, such as the Paris Agreement, should be leveraged to provide a framework for financial and technical support among countries and a fair and transparent trade system promoted.
- Address trade barriers to ensure easier access to vulnerable populations of life saving medications.

- Internationally, more financial and technology support is required from the haves for the have-nots.
- Need for easy and transparent access to international funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund.
- Coordination of global funds. Ensure that one country does not receive multiple financing for projects so that other countries can benefit from the support of the international institutions.
- One policy does not fit all, so budgets and projects should take into consideration the cultural aspects of each country.

### **Technology development & transfer and knowledge sharing**

- Green technology development and transfer is necessary for developing countries to succeed in their transition to low-carbon production and consumption patterns. Enhanced international cooperation (North-South and South-South), partnerships and collaboration between countries is needed to share knowledge, experience and technology, and set up platforms to encourage sharing of experiences, uptake and replication of good sustainable recovery practices.
- The transfer of know-how should also include monitoring and evaluation systems (MRV) needed to measure the degree of compliance with multilateral environmental agreements.
- Vaccine equity. Special efforts are required to ensure access to COVID-19 medication for all worldwide, at reduced cost.

### **Capacity**

- Participants also stressed the need to strengthen the negotiation capacities of developing country delegations to better understand the agendas of international fora dealing with current environmental issues and to be able to share their visions.
- It is important that training, education and skills development programs are developed for all people during the transition process. The transition will require new practices and jobs which workers must be prepared. At the same time at the country level, conditions must be created to enable the generation of quality employment.
- Improve the livelihoods of vulnerable workers and small-scale farmers, through enhancing of skills.

### **Support for Green Jobs**

- The creation of green jobs in different sectors of the economy, such as community and sustainable tourism, which values culture and biodiversity, through public-private partnerships
- Training of the groups most affected by the pandemic and of young people to encourage their participation and allow them to benefit from the generation of new green jobs.
- Communication campaigns to promote green job opportunities.

### **Other (in line with previous discussions)**

- Strengthening governance systems at national and sub-nations levels
- Participatory decision making including all stakeholder groups and contextualization of policies and regulations, which include vulnerable groups.
- Communication and information. Promote digital platforms and mass media to eliminate communication barriers
- Education for all, capacity building and tailored training
- Develop pilot projects
- Data coordination and monitoring
- Support community finance such as grants and easy access to credit, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Mainstream climate justice



## What are some of the commitments and “responsible” principles that need to be made by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions?

Successful implementation of the global climate agenda and green recovery efforts requires leadership and strong incentives from governments, investment and innovation from businesses, and communities to join forces to address the climate, environmental and economic crises

Among the guiding principles highlighted: solidarity with future generations; safe, dignified and inclusive work; opportunities for community development; environmental responsibility; institutional transparency; circular economy, polluter pays principle; integration of Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG).

### Role of Government

- National Government has a role to play in generating and disseminating information on, for example
  - studies and investigations that sensitize the private sector and citizens about the environmental impacts of investments and projects on natural resources and the environment
  - a country's progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and national development priorities to make visible opportunities for the private sector.
- Enforcement of environmental legislation is critical to achieve sustainable development and minimize damage to the environment.
- Improve control and monitoring mechanisms, to facilitate compliance with national regulations
- Generation of tax policies and financing programs for initiatives that promote good environmental practices
  - Incentives for the private sector to invest in environmentally friendly projects, (e.g. subsidies or the facilitation of credits) and the financing of viable and efficient alternatives.
  - Adopt higher carbon prices and disincentivize fuel investments.
  - Promote start-ups likely to develop concrete solutions in terms of the transition to low-carbon production and consumption patterns
  - Adopt social cost pricing. This requires a much broader view of the environmental and social costs along the value chain.
- Evaluate environmental and social risks in the national financial system.
- Identify and support alternative sustainable modes of income generation, especially for occupations that have a high impact natural resources
- Closer collaboration with communities:
  - encourage sustainability through community-led initiatives, communicating funding opportunities, improving capacity building and creating an enabling environment through specific legal frameworks
- Develop a clear and certain regulatory environment for business, to encourage sustainable investments. Incentivise responsible businesses by, for example, enforcing environment-related legislation, facilitating regular dialogue / information. The circular economy and other sustainability principles must be integrated into production processes and investment projects
- Require producers to follow certifications schemes such as the Union of Ethical Bioproducts or the Rainforest Alliance and adopt social and environmental safeguards.
- Promote the commitment of financial institutions to support sustainable development actions and facilitating the application of climate finance;
- Fight against corruption and money laundering.
- Sustainable budget planning.
- Develop sustainable finance taxonomies.

- Promote green procurement at all levels and in all sectors, particularly in the public sector that has enormous potential and should lead by example.

### Private sector

- While there is a general move towards responsible businesses guided by the 3Ps (Plant, People, Profit) a number of challenges remain, including:
  - The low awareness of companies vis-à-vis environmental challenges hinders the introduction of “responsible” principles by businesses and finance / investment institutions..
  - Limited dialogue among businesses and environmental professionals
  - A business culture of hiding / ignoring problems and talking only about success and not failures hinders the development of responsible companies.

Actions for the private sector include:

- Internalize their environmental impacts and commit to environmental care.
- Comply with laws and regulations on the environment, decent work and proactively accept different voluntary agreements and international standards that support sustainable development, resource efficiency and transition to circular business models
- Establish Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and HSE standards and disclosure ESG issues.
- Invest in areas that can accelerate the transition to sustainable production and consumption such as photovoltaic installations, industrial waste recovery,
- Support communities located in areas of their activity and promote inclusivity
  - Engage with minority groups to increase the uptake of green projects
  - Increase the percentage of women and youth that are hired
  - Initiatives within the framework of CSR programs with the communities can identify opportunities to support vulnerable sectors, with special attention to gender issues, young people and the elderly, as part of the CSR strategy of a company.
- Integrate core sustainability requirements into business models of all business actors, including: reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and environmental footprint, improving waste management (including waste separation, reuse and recycling), circular economy principles, such as requirements to reduce the use of resources and eco-design.

### Banking sector / Financial Institutions

- Needs: (i) strengthen capacities in order to be better equipped to support the transition to low-carbon production and consumption patterns
- Financial institutions should invest in /finance projects generating a positive impact on the environment
- Integrate ESG issues to guide the performance of investment portfolios
- Finance and investment institutions should define environmental projects to be accepted for financing, and require all projects to reflect environmental considerations and describe how they would contribute to achieving a healthier planet.
- Create programs for investment in projects presented by youth, women, and other minority groups, which typically have a low acceptance rate by financial institutions.
- Institutional investors, such as pension funds and insurance funds, need to step-up and play a bigger role in provision of medium term and long term capital
- Promote investments compatible with a green economy through preferential interest rates, and stop funding projects that are detrimental to the environment e.g. energy production from fossil fuels
- Financial institutions can increase their competitiveness and access to international partners through the adoption of environment and social indicators (in addition to financial indicators)
- Promote and support innovative green financing initiatives such as green and blue bonds,
- Incorporate Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.

## Collaboration / Other

- Companies and financial enterprises need to work together to improve environmental information disclosure, strengthen alignment with international best practices and methodologies, and foster post-disclosure behaviour change.
- Industry and finance and investment institutions should join forces to promote environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and good corporate climate governance (CCG). This will strengthen climate risk management and demonstrate their commitment to drive a green economy transition
- Promote technological solutions to decarbonisation of refrigeration and air conditioning systems (RAC)
- The private sector should share their success stories in the sustainable management of natural resources both to disseminate knowledge on good practices and contribute to decision-making at the country level
- Investors need to have more patience and solve the mismatch between short-term return expectations and long-term green projects implementation.

## What are the decent green jobs of the future? What are the new skills needed, what is needed from business? from government? from academia?

Green jobs contribute to the preservation and restoration of the environment, minimize waste and pollution, and support adaptation to the effects of climate change. A global transition to a low-carbon and sustainable economy can create large numbers of green jobs across key economic sectors (i.e., renewable energy, buildings and construction, transportation, industry, agriculture and food industry, tourism, and forestry) and become an engine for development in rural areas, local communities are highly dependent on natural resources and the environment for their livelihood. The application of local knowledge, valuing local products and identifying appropriate technology are all highlighted as important means of strengthening the capability and skills of local communities, particularly women and vulnerable people, to generate income from agricultural, forestry and community-based tourism.

Green jobs will require adaptability to change, innovation and creativity. On-going capacity building, skills transfer, training, study tours and exchanges are needed to develop and upscale expertise in core areas.

## Government

There are a number of steps Government can take to create an enabling environment for the creation and development of green jobs, these include:

- Encourage training in green jobs / sectors and promote labor inclusion.
- Subsidize projects / introduce sustainable financing mechanisms related to green jobs and offer corporate incentives to promote sustainable development. At the same time, establish policies and commitments to end subsidies that harm nature (reduce products that are harmful and pollute the environment).
- Equip basic, secondary and higher education establishments with laboratories and workshops adapted to green professions.
- Ensure jobs comply with the labor and human rights of all social groups.
- Promote and communicate green jobs (and define the concepts of “green and blue economies” in order to catalyze action).
- Create public-private partnership to provide economic incentives and green jobs opportunities.
- Set good precedents, for example through the state procurement system purchasing only environmentally friendly goods or services, which may be more expensive

- Develop appropriate regulatory frameworks and guidelines to support the transition to green practices e.g. in the construction sector, regulations and guidelines are needed to comply with the green building rating system.
- Work with key development partners to increase the capacity of government and non-government institutions to access green climate funds, for example through coaching on the key criteria and mechanism for accessing GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund and other internationally available funds.

### Role of Academia

- The education sector must be adequately prepared to ensure a suitable academic offering to develop the skills and expertise required, tailored to the national context
- Create school programs related to green jobs.
- New training courses will be needed to develop green professionals and entrepreneurs. Hence, universities should adapt curricula to align with new green jobs and strengthen the capacity of trainers and supervisors delivering related courses. In general sustainability should be an integral part of education.
- The creation of green job vocational schools (coral monitoring, tree planting, aquaculture, agriculture) and focussed scholarship can support the development of skills
- The promotion of scientific and academic research is also essential for the development of innovative solutions aimed at sustainability, as well as for access to new careers in green jobs. Academia can increase research related to green income generating alternatives for fishermen and farmers, developing eco-friendly packages for exportation of agriculture products, identifying types of native plants that can be consumed as an alternative to consumption of imported vegetables. They can also support technical training in school/colleges in areas of renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fishing techniques, among others.

### Companies

- Companies should promote and integrate new green jobs in their operation and develop experts.
- Promote innovative ways to develop eco-friendly alternatives e.g. in the fashion and design industry, plastic packaging, organic farming, composting, and implement sustainable projects and processes.
- Financial sector: it is necessary to develop the capacities of the banking sector to better support the concepts, projects and initiatives that are part of the transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns.

**A non-exhaustive list of potential green jobs highlighted in the National Consultations is provided below:**

**Agriculture:** Manufacture of organic fertilizers, drip systems, solar panels, improved seeds; Urban farmer or vertical farming uses a combination of innovative architecture and the latest agricultural technology, to grow crops in cities; organic and climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral activities; regenerative agriculture, beekeeping, agroecological gardens, food processing.

**Blue economy:** marine energy based renewables, marine conservation, marine eco-tourism; fisheries and aquaculture.

**Building sector:** Eco-builder; Energy-efficient renovation of buildings.

**Health:** care providers; environmental health and safety.

**IT:** professionals of information system management and technologies, e-commerce, online education.

**Professional services / General :** Sustainability expert; Low carbon expert; environmental scientist; nature monitor; green engineering; environmental auditor; eco-architects; environmental lawyers; micro-enterprises in nature-based solution; sustainable / carbon finance experts; environmental and social assessment experts; experts in adaptation and mitigation techniques in various sectors; corporate social and sustainability responsibilities, ESG monitoring and reporting, data analysis, sustainability consulting; climate change research.

**Renewable energy:** Jobs related to the design, manufacture (engineers), maintenance and distribution and installation of renewables (solar, wind, hydro, biogas and biofuels), energy auditors.

**Sustainable Forestry:** Nursery agent for reforestation; Forest and agroforestry managers / technicians; sustainable land management, agroforestry, agroecology, pharmacopoeia, valorization of non-wood forest products and production of seedlings and other activities related to forest rehabilitation.

**Transport and sustainable cities:** Electric vehicle engineer; expert in sustainable cities and transportation; sustainable urban planners, experts in rainwater systems, sustainable sanitation, waste management.

**Tourism.** Ecotourism

**Waste:** Recycler; Recycling plant technician; Waste and recycling manager; waste valorization experts, manufacture of biodegradable packaging.

**Water:** Jobs in integrated water resources management, river management.

### 4.3 Leadership Dialogue 3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action

#### **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?**

There are a range of environmental, social and economic and health challenges – the climate change crisis, pollution, biodiversity loss and the extinction of species, deforestation, land degradation increased incidents of environmental disasters, poverty, creation of decent jobs and new emerging diseases. The complexity and difficulties of addressing these challenges are compounded by:

#### **Governance challenges**

- Lack of a political will, corruption and genuine business commitment.
- Lack of a shared vision on a sustainable development model.
- Alignment of public policies and practices with the commitments made to multilateral environmental treaties, while taking into account national priorities. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and NDC targets are not sufficiently embedded in public and private strategies and planning.
- Policy development challenges, including not enough attention being paid to the environment sector, lack of policies in key areas (e.g. an effective policy to combat desertification and preserve wetlands) and the lengthy process to approve policies.
- Weak laws and regulations to protect biodiversity .
- Weak operationalization of consultation frameworks at national, regional, local and communal levels.
- Ineffective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and insufficient reliable statistical data for monitoring the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and other environmental programs.
- Resurgence of armed conflicts, violent extremism and intercommunity conflicts.
- It was also mentioned that SDGs are not mandatory for countries and this hampers the efforts towards their implementation.

#### **The challenge of making the required changes at the speed required**

- As outlined in the IPCC Report, there is very little time to implement measures to mitigate climate change. There is a high dependence on hydro carbons, and short term risks and challenges around phasing-out coal - e.g., stranded assets, interlinkages across different industries, disruptions in the socio-economic structure of already vulnerable areas.
- The tight timeline for developing and mainstreaming mitigation technology is linked to the limited time left to avert the worst impacts of global warming. Technology transfer is also considered to be weak.

#### **Challenges related to the state of the global economy**

- COVID-19 and the current global economic crisis due to the crisis in Ukraine increases poverty and hence the focus on survival issues with climate change and ecology being seen as less of a priority. It is harder to pivot from short-term thinking to long-term thinking, when people have immediate urgent basic needs.
- Sharp increases in food and fuel prices in the global and regional markets lead to instability in food production and markets of staple foods. This calls in doubt the ability of countries to meet SDG 2 to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security.
- Globally there needs to be a level playing field for all countries.

#### **Finance challenges**

- The lack of finance is a critical constraint.

- Insufficient flows of finance from developed countries.
  - Developed countries polluting the most should provide sufficient and unconditional funding for adaptation to vulnerable countries contributing the least GHG emission.
  - The international community should respect its financial commitments, for example under the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- Resources for environmental protection / sustainable development are mainly from the public sector: mobilizing private capital at scale remains a challenge. It is critical to find ways of unlocking private sector finance to support the transition to an inclusive sustainable economy, including the creation of decent green jobs.
- There is a need to develop financing mechanisms and mobilize external and internal financial resources to support the transition to low-carbon production and consumption
- It is difficult to design climate bankable projects/programs.

### Education and awareness related challenges

- Lack of awareness on environmental issues and the SDGs and limited environmental education.
- Lack of science and technology-based knowledge and education and awareness among the general public on a variety of issues, such as GHG and circular economy.
- Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of the importance of international conventions
- Weak human, technical and technological resource capacity in the design and mobilization of financial resources and communication.
- A culture that does not take into consideration the preservation of the environment and a lack of civic responsibilities, and difficulties encouraging the population to adopt climate-resilient behaviours.

### Needs / actions to create an enabling environment to deliver on the ground

Selected needs and actions are summarised below; they align with points raised under other sections of the National Consultations.

- Promote actions to increase dialogue and coordination.
  - Develop dialogue platforms and development partnerships across all development sectors and administrative levels. For example, the launch of a national conference to address issues related to the realization of the environmental dimension of sustainable development was suggested.
  - Improve coordination amongst government agencies and development partners;
  - Energize and make functional the national and regional frameworks for exchange and consultation on the SDGs, NDCs and MEAs
  - Leverage the participation of women, youths, PWDs and involve them in the implementation of initiatives on the environment.
- Policy development
  - Creation of a shared vision of a country's sustainable development, which is inclusive and includes the concepts of bio-economy and circular economy
  - Restructure the governance process by decentralizing power.
- Strengthening of legal frameworks
  - Strengthen sanctions and enforcement measures for environmental infractions and offenses.
  - Establish of a legal environment conducive to national and international investments.
  - Full engagement of localized environmental law bodies and instruments and the establishment of environmental courts.
- Finance
  - Revisit budgetary allocation to support sustainable development.
  - National budget should be inclusive of all sectors including, women, youths, persons with disabilities and addition direct funding should be allocated to these priority groups.

- Refine and upscale incentives for households and the private sector to motivate further investment in energy efficient, nature-based solutions and management of ecosystems, waste and water management, in line with NDCs and SDGs.
- Facilitate the mobilization of external and internal financial resources through a commitment from stakeholders.
- Support for / from private sector
  - The promotion of the development of micro-enterprises and start-ups to encourage the transition towards sustainable production and consumption;
  - Changing business models and promoting responsible business
- Increase pilot initiatives promoting the transfer of know-how. The implementation of pilot activities is seen as a very effective tool for delivering tangible results that can be used to motivate other players to replicate activities.
- Development of environmental education and awareness raising and capacity building
  - A drastic change in mindset of the population, through sustained awareness raising and sensitization.
  - Campaigns on the SDGs focused on all citizens.
  - Strengthen human, technical and technological resource capacities in the design of climate bankable projects/programs and the mobilization of financial resources and communication.
  - Link people with nature - a bond that has been lost/broken in many instances, especially in urban and peri-urban areas.
- To create an enabling environment for work in the field and ensure sustainable delivery:
  - Actions and activities undertaken must be collaboratively and designed with the community.
  - Efforts are needed to build up trust and dialogue with the population and empower communities.
  - Funding is needed.
  - Community outreach is crucial for increasing awareness on environmental issues and policies.
  - Provide evidence-based policy advice to assess the impact of economic and environmental policies and practices on local development sectors and communities,
  - Build capacity by providing local stakeholders (including marginalized and vulnerable groups) with opportunities to learn about and engage in key green initiatives, focusing on local business and skills development for green business start-ups and sectoral interventions (i.e., in construction, waste, energy, tourism, forestry and agriculture, among others),
  - Create decent employment.
- International support
  - Decentralization of the implementation of international agendas
  - Fulfilment of international financial commitments
- Monitoring and evaluation and data management
  - Support the National Statistical System in the production of reliable data for monitoring the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and other environmental programs.
  - Develop action plans with specific targets, in all sectors, with proper monitoring and evaluation to achieve delivery as per established timelines.
  - Build a broader knowledge base through policy research and knowledge networks.

**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?**

Numerous good practices and pathways are noted in the National Consultations. Illustrative examples across core areas are summarised below.



### **International support**

- Provision to developing countries of the means of implementation (financing, technology transfer and capacity building) to enable the achievement of the environmental dimension of sustainable development;
- Support to research institutes.

### **Private Sector / Finance**

- Private sector investments, partnerships, participatory financing and philanthropy;
- Carbon pricing and carbon markets. Carbon pricing is an important tool for companies to manage climate risks especially transition risks caused by changing environmental policies and needs to be scaled up.
- Expansion of National Emission Trading System (ETS) beyond the power sector.
- Implement financial mechanisms aimed at promoting environmental conservation and restoration (e. g., access to carbon market for local communities).
- Accreditation and certification of companies and sectors with ISO TC331

### **Governance, Regulations, Monitoring and Evaluation and data management**

- Regulatory frameworks to accelerate the transition to low-carbon production and consumption.
- Expanding regulation and measures related to plastic pollution.
- More specific regulations on conservation and treatment and surveillance of water.
- Linking SDGs to municipal regulations.
- Access to (environmental) justice
- Consideration of workers' rights.
- Strategic plan for non-CO2 GHG with a clear national control strategy for key industries, strengthening R&D, promotion and application of technologies for HFCs and methane.
- Performance monitoring across sectors to ensure accountability towards environmental sustainability and delivery of SDGs. Monitoring and reporting tools can be updated and improved. For example, a National SDG Reporting Platform to facilitate monitoring of SDGs displaying data and metadata, graphical representation of indicators, and opportunity to download data in various formats.

### **Inclusivity**

- Supporting and scaling up local initiatives in cities and rural areas (e.g. projects aimed at greening cities, preserving biodiversity (e.g., tree planting) and promoting sustainable practices and behaviours such as waste sorting and recycling).
- Creating sustainable livelihoods compatible with a green economy.
- Promoting local and traditional and indigenous know-how.
- Policies and actions that consider people with disabilities.
- Development and adoption of appropriate and inclusive technologies for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups.
- Participatory design, implementation and evaluation of public policies that promote sustainable development.

### **Environmental education**

- Promotion of environmental citizenship. For, example through STOP-THINK-ACT campaigns at all levels (from individual / household to corporations).
- Higher Education Centers that educate and raise awareness among different target populations on issues such as sustainable urban planning, clean energy, environmental management and social inclusion.
- Training young people and children on the importance of caring for the environment.
- Dissemination of information on the link between environmental issues, the economy and welfare.

## Sector specific examples include:

### Agriculture

- Upscale of agro-technology (digital innovation for agriculture).
- Promotion of intelligent agriculture (drip irrigation, intensive rice cultivation system, use of organic manure).
- More incentives to promote smart and bio-agriculture

### Energy

- Access to clean energy and electric mobility.
- Energy management system which enable decision making.
- Scaling up renewable energy projects (e.g., bio-energy, solar, hydro and wind, and improved cooking stoves).

### Environment

- Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems and biodiversity (terrestrial and marine)
- Upscale ecosystem-based adaptation practices and Nature Based Solutions
- Upscale, for example, coral farming, mangrove plantation, agro-forestry and eco-tourism initiatives.
- More finance and incentives to better manage and increase the number of Protected Areas and promote the blue economy.
- Inclusive financing models to support local government and communities, for example through economic and fiscal instruments, socio-economic incentive measures and partnership building through nature-based solutions.
- Water conservation projects, e.g. rain water collection/harvesting, focusing on coastal communities access to clean water.
- Storm water management / treatment to prevent debris and wastes from reaching the ocean.

### Sustainable cities

- Building sustainable green cities that are resilient to climate change.
- Promote green transportation through incentives and services (e.g. provision of electric bicycle rental services as an alternative use of hydrocarbon transportation).
- Develop the necessary infrastructure (cycling lanes, bicycle parking areas, bike rental services), economic incentives (for example, the removal of customs tax for importing bicycles) and awareness raising for active mobility.

### Waste Management

- Changes in consumption patterns and waste management in line with a circular economy and the 5 Rs under SDG 12;
- A multi-department coordination mechanism for zero-waste cities with clear leadership and distribution of duties, based on an integrated development model linking environmental, economic and social development goals and evidence-based analysis.
- Strengthening the supervision and monitoring capacities for hazardous waste recycling and disposal to reduce environmental risks.
- Construction of communal dumps, to facilitate recycling and involvement of municipalities in the management of garbage collection systems.
- Operationalization of WASH clubs in schools and community health centers.
- Valuation, transformation and recycling of solid and liquid waste.
- Eliminate single use plastic products.

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

The National Consultations present a consistent narrative on what is needed to transform governance and legal systems to maintain long term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all. These needs and actions have already been elaborated on in previous sections of this report, and are summarised below:

- Political leadership and the willingness of decision makers to formulate and implement plans that respond to needs.
  - Constitutional reforms may be appropriate in some cases to ensure a strict separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, and a free and fair legal system.
- Strengthen coordination, inclusiveness and development of integrated policies and plans
  - The need for on-going, participatory and fully inclusive processes to identify economic, climate and environmental priorities and agree decisions is consistently stated across the National Consultations.
  - Improve coordination between sectors to promote integrated and coherent plans and policies and streamline governance structures at all levels.
  - Enhance education on social and environmental issues and access to quality information (including scientific studies) to facilitate participate in the decision-making process at all levels (government, civil society, private sector).
  - Enhance participation and environmental governance at the sub-national level.
- Financial management
  - Analysis of the public budget to identify opportunities to enhance delivery of the SDGs.
  - Develop diversified, sufficient, and predictable financing.
  - Introduce a comprehensive carbon pricing mechanism.
- Laws and Regulations
  - Establish where gaps exist, develop / update and enforce legal and regulatory frameworks through participatory process.
  - Align national standards with international standards.
  - Promote incentives in order to encourage innovation and investment in projects that allow for the realization of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
  - Enforce severe penalties for environmental infractions.
  - Ensure easy public access to tribunals and platforms to submit concerns and appeals.
- Enhance monitoring evaluation and accountability mechanism frameworks.
  - For example, the establishment of a centralized M&R framework based on measurable monitoring indicators.
  - Promote transparency.

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

The consultations put forward numerous proposals to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities and improve the business climate to enable the drive towards sustainable development.

### Government

- **Creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment is a precondition for accelerating finance towards existing commitment and priorities.** The public sector must create mechanisms to encourage technological change and human development to achieve the transition. Key areas highlighted include: (ii) Enhancement of financial regulations in terms of green finance standardization, mandatory environmental information disclosure, monetary incentives and dis-incentives and guidelines for financial

instruments innovation; (ii) Reduction investment risks, for example through laws on "feed-in tariffs", to support investments in renewables energy; (iii) Development of public private partnership (PPP) frameworks;

- **All public policies, projects, funding and investments (e.g. national, sub-nation and sectoral) should be aligned with the achievement of development commitments and priorities.** Nature, climate change and the SDGs need to be integrated into macroeconomic planning, budgeting and taxation. The Government needs to ensure coordination in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of commitments and priorities. All planned policies and measures should be evidence and science based, and take into account inclusiveness and the needs of vulnerable population. Establish Institutional mechanisms to prioritise our commitments across MEA incorporating different actors (State, local authorities, private sector and TFPs).
- The **use of incentives** (e.g. financial support, tax breaks) was emphasised, to attract private investment, foster the development of start-ups and SMEs, and encourage the general population to uptake practices supporting the transition to low-carbon production and consumption patterns. At the same time subsidies that negatively affect the environment should be identified and repurposed to generate social and environmental benefits. Fiscal and regulatory instruments should be targeted at internalising environmental costs across sectors.
- **Improve access to finance.** The creation of green economy business can be accelerated by ensuring access to financing mechanisms, especially for young entrepreneurs and micro-businesses. The encouragement of alternative financing processes such as sponsorship, participatory financing, is cited as a key factor in the development of the energy sector.
- **Promotion of innovative finance mechanism:**
  - The introduction of **Green and Blue bonds** is an important and useful tool for developing countries to create favorable conditions for development of climate/environmental projects
  - The establishment of National Environment / Climate funds for the implementation of the main conventions (convention on biodiversity, convention on desertification, convention on climate)
  - Establishment of carbon markets, which can effectively generate price signals, and reflect costs and benefits of carbon reduction, and potentially incorporate methane emission reduction projects.
- **Support to communities.** The need for government support and legal/funding frameworks to support community-driven projects/initiatives and priorities is highlighted. Social responsibility and the participatory approach with the community are very important when it comes to environmental projects. It was noted that some funded projects suit donors' agenda more than the need of local communities, which negatively affect the sustainability of the projects. Local community participation in the projects, through either cash contributions or in-kind contribution, is key to increase the sense of ownership.
- **Budget allocations.** To increase the allocation of budgets to climate, nature and SDG delivery there is a need to: (i) Sensitize sectoral ministries towards the introduction of a specific budget dedicated to climate change; (ii) strengthen planning of the state budget and the allocation of finances
- **Financial transparency and monitoring.** Governments, led by Ministries of Finance and Economy, need to strengthen financial governance systems to increase trust and facilitate access to green / climate finance. This includes establishment / strengthening of transparency mechanisms on public spending, for example through tracking expenditure, closer monitoring of Key Performance Indicators and stronger between finance and results, and cost benefit analysis, more integrated fiscal planning and budgeting processes. The establishment of Monitoring and evaluation committees are suggested as a means of ensuring the efficient use of funding against commitments and priorities.

- **Establish an information and communication strategy on the commitments and national priorities.** Create a Government platform to publish national strategy documents, and plans related to sustainable development, climate and nature to enable a common understanding across stakeholders on what areas need development and facilitate proposals and investments aligned with commitment and national priorities. The need for effective communication to portray sustainable development as an opportunity rather than an obligation or constraint was also noted.
- Strengthen the links and alliances with international cooperation agencies and institutions,
- **Support finance investment at the sub-national level.** Strengthen linkages between national and subnational governments and the framework for collaboration with local communities, NGOs, academia, and private entities at sub-national level.

### Private sector, Banks and other financial institutions

- The public and private sectors must work together, since both have great responsibilities in the face of climate change and the protection of ecosystems. The private sector must be part of the development of long-term strategic plans.
- Financial institutions and their clients need to increase their capacity in managing climate and environmental risks by enhanced information disclosure and systematic stress testing. With well-equipped measures to tackle environment, social, and governance (ESG) issues, particularly climate change, the financial sector can facilitate the private sector to further advance their fundraising activities and investment on sustainable projects and economic.
- Private equity and venture capital play a crucial role in incubating cutting-edge green technologies, by providing first-loss capital and business operation consultation.
- Commercial banks issue “green loans” but interest rates are still high due to the operational costs of banks; the lack of affordable loans limits the capacity of the private sector to apply advanced (clean) technologies in production processes. Financial and other types of support for the business sector is needed for a green transition (e.g., preferential loans for energy efficiency or renewable energy measures).
- Channeling development finance through the private sector in developing countries would allow for a faster uptake of green approaches by the private sector and bring them to the forefront of a green transition. Therefore, the
- National Banks have a role to play in setting some requirements and criteria for commercial banks.
- Promotion of index insurance.
- A key challenge is mobilizing early-stage capital to support high-impact projects which do not present an immediate strong business case for investors. Even where there is a business case, many communities struggle to attract financing to critical projects because they lack the skills to analyse and present that business case. Unlocking the first tranche of capital to explore possibilities (i.e., pre-feasibility studies) is a major gap.
- Producer and consumer voices can play an important role in attracting finance, especially from big cooperatives and producer

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

Protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development is the common responsibility of all countries and can only be achieved through multilateralism and international cooperation. It was noted that this is especially critical for issues where the window to implement changes to avert irreversible damage is fast closing, such as carbon, methane and HFCs reduction. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals requires strengthened cooperation and shared efforts between States, the international community (including financing agencies), and the social actors of each country.

Successful and long-lasting partnerships are based on mutual trust, transparency and a clear understanding of what is expected of all parties, and the maintenance of smooth communication channels. Partnerships need to fit into an overarching framework or strategy to achieve the SDGs.

### **Actions to strengthen partnerships**

- Extra effort is needed to make sure that partnerships are truly inclusive. Alliances should be promoted between small businesses that can together improve the social, environmental and economic conditions of the communities. Inclusivity will also facilitate the urgent need to integrate national, regional and local level plans to which the sustainable development goals relate –to avoid duplication and contradictions. The participation of young people can be promoted through their engagement in high level conferences to empower them at the national and at the community level.
- The National Consultations call for a sustainable development cooperation framework, which is "SMART", concrete and better adapted to countries' needs. This framework should be based on measurable performance indicators and be in line with the ambition of post-pandemic recovery. It must also ensure the development and transfer of technology and the promotion of know-how. For example, the need for enhanced South – South cooperation, bilateral cooperation and tailored partnerships for SIDS, the implementation of blue economy and SCP projects were noted.
- Partnerships need to be reviewed often to check they are working effectively, who is missing, and whether they need to adapt to changes in circumstances.
- North-South and South-South cooperation should be promoted.
- Extensive and pragmatic cooperation should be promoted based on mutual learning, complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses. Potential areas of collaboration related to climate include: low-carbon policy tools and models, data information sharing platforms, scientific evaluations, exchanges around ETS policy impact, carbon tax and carbon pricing mechanisms.
- Strengthen technical partnership for technology transfer, technical support, capacity building and implementation of pilot projects. Greater cooperation is needed to reduce costs and share risks around technologies of common interests (e.g., coal reduction and removal, oil and gas removal, renewable energy, new power systems, methane and HFCs reduction), low-carbon and negative-carbon technologies (e.g., CCUS, next-generation nuclear energy), digital intelligence.
- Governments have a key role to play in brokering and facilitating Multi Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs).
- It is emphasized that partnerships with the private sector are critical given their role in technology development, employment creation and finance.
- Promotion of multilateral and bilateral financing agreements (transfer of agreed climate protection funds from the North to the South).

### **Partnership with the UN**

- The National Consultations acknowledge that expertise and financial support from UN agencies has helped countries adopt and implement more sustainable development projects for improved resilience against the country's vulnerability due to climate change, meet the SDGs, the NDC and other MEA commitments, achieve faster digitalization for transformational changes and increased resource efficiency.
- To accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation, the UN and its agencies must continue to leverage its network of expertise supporting intergovernmental coordination, policy development, decision-making, technical capacity, technological and scientific advancements, the empowerment of government and civil society, the mobilization and coordination of finance and the implementation of programs on the ground.

- It was stressed that the UN needs to strengthen its relationship and interactions with local government, local organisations (NGOs, community-based organisations universities), small and medium enterprises (SME) and the private sector in general to ensure that actions are implemented quickly and strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of official development assistance. It was highlighted that local small businesses are more accountable to their local communities and donate more money to non-profits and often have a smaller carbon footprint than larger companies.
- Enhance sharing of successful green approaches, best practices and techniques that have been implemented in other countries. Information must be shared at multiple levels, from the country's leaders and institutions to communities
- The importance of contextualizing support to a country's situation was also stressed.
- Other ways the UN could enhance its support include: (i) more flexible funding to facilitate the allocation of direct financial support to where it is most needed; (ii) greater focus on implementing investment projects and supporting pilot (demonstration) activities to spearhead buy-in and replication and lead to more tangible results; (iii) simpler reporting formats; (iv) defining concrete global environmental requirements and indicators and establishing monitoring mechanisms; (v) creating mechanisms to block unfair lobbying processes and ensuring participatory planning and decision-making processes; (vi) strengthening its partnerships with international banking and business associations and multilateral development banks to generate commitments to redirect capital towards the SDGs; and, (vii) promoting a blue transition.
- Good coordination and harmonization is required among UN agencies at global, regional and national levels to avoid duplication, and a mechanism / platform needs to be put in place to coordinate across donors to ensure coherence among the projects being implemented.

### **What capacities and technologies are needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature? Are there digital technologies and related capacity that are especially in need of support from the global community?**

Technology and digital tools are acknowledged as key accelerators for the achievement of inclusive sustainable development; their role and importance in this was underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic. Green technologies are needed that contribute to a lower environmental impact and greater efficiency in the use of resources, reduce GHG emissions (e.g. low carbon technologies – clean energy, sustainable transport), and transform waste management in line with a circular economy.

The need for a balanced approach to the application of new technologies was noted, that is based on a holistic understanding of the possible trade-offs and respect and appreciation of ancestral practices.

The rapid growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, big data analytics presents growing opportunities to support inclusive green growth, but need to be made accessible to all and tailored to country, sector and stakeholder contexts.

#### **Access to digital tools and technology and equity implications**

- Countries have variable levels of internet access and connectivity; in some countries access to the internet is low and basic connectivity issues need to be addressed, while in others connectivity is reasonable and they are ready and keen to implement more complex technologies in support of their sustainable development aspirations and to support their compliance with multilateral environmental treaties.
- Low access to the internet and digitalization adversely affect people's lives in multiple ways. For example, many students did not have access to formal education during the COVID-19 lockdown due to the lack of connectivity and capacity to use digital tools, while

the lack of a digitally skilled workforce limits the potential for professional and economic growth and leaves job vacancies unfilled in some countries.

- Access to digital information, especially by women and people in rural areas needs to be improved. Internet access in developing countries can specifically benefit women, as educating girls and women has a great impact on poverty eradication and overall development.
- To ensure a high level of environmental, social and human health protection best - available technology (BAT) have to be universally available and affordable to industry and governments. Since industry, energy production, raw material extraction and export make a significant contribution to the economies of developing countries, available and affordable green technologies and techniques are needed to foster low-carbon development. Types of technical tools required include - software for calculating greenhouse gas emissions, modelling tools, super calculators, systemic observation tools.

### Capacity building and other support needed

- International cooperation is essential for technology and capacity transfer to developing countries.
- Capacity and skills in green and digital technologies vary across countries. They are low in [many] countries. In general Governments, educational institutions and industry need to start implementing policies and programmes that increase the level of digital competence in countries and the uptake of green technologies.
- Core to developing such policies and programmes is understanding the status of national skills, the demand and the gaps, in order to develop targeted and effective action.
- It is essential to work with all stakeholders, but especially the most vulnerable (women, youth, indigenous communities, disabled people), to build their technical skills and basic knowledge of technologies that can support sustainable practices. The role of state agencies, especially local authorities, was emphasized in this context. Capacity development and awareness raising campaigns should be more tailored to specific target groups in order to effectively address knowledge gaps.
- Moreover, it is necessary to encourage scientific research, citizen science, development, and innovation through policies and allocation of financial resources.
- The National Consultations noted the importance of developing national capacities for the management of big data and its use, guaranteeing the confidentiality of personal information, as well as the incorporation of tools that allow periodic monitoring of key issues for sustainable development such as changes in land use or the use of the marine environment for economic activities.
- Illustrative areas noted where capacity building is required include: develop expertise in the fields of emerging technologies (augmented reality, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics); renewable energy and energy efficiency, resource efficiency, green buildings, smart agriculture, modern healthcare, regenerative solutions (e.g., beach rehabilitation, biodiversity); analytical capacities to track and manage data.
- Finance is needed for:
  - a range of innovations, including the following illustrative examples: modernizing infrastructure favouring renewable energy sources e.g., solar power streetlights, nature-based solutions, innovative and low carbon technologies.
  - scientific research (e.g. to increase understanding of how to control plastic pollution and how to align international best practices and local conditions).
  - Incentive schemes to support uptake of technologies.
- Access to the latest technologies should be ensured through the sharing of best practices and open access mechanisms that benefit developing countries.



## 5 Emerging Recommendations

The National Consultations call for assurance that the agreements reached during the Stockholm +50 meeting will not remain on paper. They must be translated into urgent concrete and financed actions for a just, inclusive transition to a sustainable global economy. They call for continued dialogue with all national stakeholders (public, private, civil society, academia, vulnerable groups) to review and implement recommendations of the Stockholm+50 meeting.

Stockholm+50 must help place the world on a practical path to reverse the current trends of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. In order to accelerate the transition to inclusive and sustainable growth it is necessary to change the economic system in favour of development clearly focussed on renewable energy, a circular economy, the protection and restoration of nature and ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, creation of fair and just employment with a focus on green jobs, access to affordable health care, innovation and inclusive partnerships, and the full consideration and engagement of vulnerable groups.

### Governance – Policies – Legislation

- Position the environmental dimension as a top public policy priority in order to meet the multiple challenges imposed by different environmental crises, such as climate change, loss of biological diversity, desertification and land degradation.
- Strengthen governance systems - establish long-term environmental plans and policies with strict monitoring mechanisms and build legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation and climate change where these are lacking.
- Ensure an effective enforcement of policies and regulations, good governance, personal freedom and human and civil rights and access to education to all.
- Improve monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanism for environmental protection.
- Strengthen participatory decision-making, planning and implementation for fair, equitable, and inclusive access to natural resources, focusing on vulnerable groups.
- Better align national priorities with MEAs and other international UN conventions.
- Prioritize and enhance support for environmental action by local governments .
- Adopt National Capital Accounting.

### Finance and Investment

- Increased finance is required to meet climate, environmental and sustainable development commitments.
- Design mechanisms that would facilitate access to finance for various target groups, (e.g. local communities, academia, women, people with disabilities)
- Introduce fair benefit sharing mechanisms for forest management and mineral deposits
- Intensify 'green' public and private investments e.g., investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, increase energy and resource efficiency, prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services innovative technologies for agriculture, waste management, environmental and natural resource management
- Promote alternative sustainable livelihoods

### Private sector

- It is critical to involve private sector in addressing the challenges of sustainable development, closing the significant funding gap, and meeting climate and nature targets.
- Strengthen investment environment, including policy, regulatory and incentive measures to accelerate private sector led green investments (including blended finance). Specific recommendations include: incentivizing green and innovative SMEs; subsidies or tax

breaks for sustainable energy; and, an increased support and incentives for private sector engagement in Nature-based Solutions.

### International / donor support

- Support from the UN and other agencies to countries in terms of finance and technical support and expertise is critical for the implementation of SDGs and other international commitments. There is a need for accelerated technology transfer and scaled-up financing for the implementation of clean energy transition in developing countries.
- Support countries with guidelines summarizing good practices globally on the post-COVID recovery process and propose specific parameters / indexes that would stimulate the creation of green jobs or the introduction of circular economy principles.
- Given that responsibility for many decisions that impact the economies and environment lies at the provincial level and with the move towards decentralization in some countries, more focussed support is needed at the sub-national level, in addition to national level support.

### Data & Digitisation

- Leverage AI and digital tools to support actions against climate change and biodiversity conservation;
- Enhance the national management of data and information on climate and environment;
- Promote application of digital technology in key livelihood sectors including agriculture and tourism.

### Integration and co-ordination

- Promote intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration and coordination to develop and strengthen integrated policies and plans and exploit potential synergies among development drivers and sectors to reduce costs and risks, and increase positive impacts.
- Build partnerships and create effective platforms for policy dialogue among the public, private and non-governmental sectors as well as academia to increase knowledge and address common gaps in understanding. One recommendation was to launch a national conference, including all stakeholders, to address governance issues and policies needed to transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- Consult regularly with key stakeholder groups to inform public policy and decision-making.

### Inclusivity and Equity

- Promote participatory and inclusive approaches;
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement in developing public policies and regulations, project development and implementation and decision-making processes in general. Participation mechanisms must be strengthened prioritizing the inclusion of youth, women, and civil society groups.
- Support youth organizations who are raising awareness of more sustainable consumption habits;
- Recognise the fundamental role of indigenous communities and small rural producers in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Reinvigorate the **informal economy sector** through training, access to financing, and easing eligibility criteria for funds;
- Stimulate small businesses through government programs that empower and attract more women to the SMEs sector.
- Prioritize the development of human potential and social community infrastructure in all national strategies in order to strengthen human capital and improve access to social services, technology access, infrastructure development and investment;
- Provide skills training to the youth to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods;
- Equity
  - Guarantee Free, Prior, and Informed consent (FPIC).

- Promote Fair and equitable benefit-sharing
- Equitable and transparent access to financial and technical **support**, internet and knowledge for marginalized and vulnerable groups (including women, youth, ethnic minorities, poor)

### Education and awareness

- Improve environmental awareness and education for all stakeholders across all levels of society (e.g. elected decision-makers and vulnerable groups); this is considered to be central to the successful implementation of sectoral and national sustainable development programs;
- Invest in climate and environment education and introduce environmental education in kindergartens and in school and university curriculum (e.g through science enrichment curriculum, natural history field trips, community service projects);
- Strengthen awareness and sensitization campaigns for communities and general public on the challenges of climate change;
- Develop with support from the international donor and government agencies more training and information materials in local languages.

### Capacity and Research

- Build human capacities as a key prerequisite for the transition to a green economy and the implementation of principles of sustainable development;
- Encourage scientific research to inform policy development and planning;
- Support the development, integration and exchange between indigenous ancestral knowledge and western science;
- Introduce Best-Available Technologies (BAT) to minimize negative impacts on the environment and health.

## Sector specific recommendations:

### Agriculture:

- Promote sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices;
- Encourage dietary changes that support local and sustainable food production;
- Support green entrepreneurship to increase locally-produced eco-friendly/green production;
- Act to ensure food security;
- Reduce post-harvest losses through intensification and development of storage infrastructure;
- Develop units for processing agricultural products, considering marginalized group.

### Energy:

- Support the development and adoption of low-carbon economic development strategies (LCDS) focusing on diversifying the economy from traditional energy sources and scaling up of renewables;
- Increase investment in solar, wind and hydro power.

### Forestry:

- Increase carbon sequestration through sustainable forest management and reforestation;
- Encourage community tree planting in both urban and rural areas;
- Promote alternative domestic energy sources where fuelwood and charcoal use are common.

### Health / COVID:

- Increase the capacity of hospitals.

### Infrastructure:

- Improve climate-resilient infrastructure.

### Marine:

- Promote sustainable ocean economy;
- Provide technical skills and fishing equipment to people engaged in small scale fishing.

### Urban:

- Initiate urban resilience projects with a particular focus on infrastructure and waste management;
- Build mechanisms to inform the public about the ecological condition of the urban environment;
- Publicize the activities of state organizations and city services to address environmental issues;
- Involve youth and environmental organizations, as well as city activists in the environmental life of the city, using a area-based education approach.

### Water & Sanitation:

- Improve sanitation (latrines).

### Waste:

- Strengthen waste management (removal of waste near communities and creation of landfills far from inhabited communities)
- Develop/reinforce public-private partnerships;
- Strengthen enforcement and penalties around improper waste disposal and introduce tax exemption on good waste management practices.