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**Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity  
of all – our responsibility, our opportunity**  
Stockholm, 2 and 3 June 2022

## Report

*Rapporteur-General: Erki Savisaar (Estonia)*

### I. Organization of work and other organizational matters

#### A. Date and venue

1. The international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” was held in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [75/280](#) and [75/326](#). During that period, four plenary meetings and three leadership dialogues were held. At the opening segment of the international meeting, a commemorative moment dedicated to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, was observed, in which His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden participated.

#### B. Attendance

2. The list of participants is set out in document A/CONF.238/INF/2.

#### C. Opening of the international meeting

3. The international meeting was opened on 2 June 2022 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as temporary President.

4. At the formal opening, during the 1st plenary meeting, on 2 June 2022, statements were made by the Presidents of the international meeting, Magdalena Andersson and Uhuru Kenyatta; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres; the President of the General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid; the President of the Economic and Social Council, Collen Vixen Kelapile; and the Secretary-General of the international meeting, Inger Andersen.

#### D. Election of the two Presidents and other officers of the international meeting

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 2 June 2022, the international meeting elected its officers.

##### 1. Presidents

6. The President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, and the Prime Minister of Sweden, Magdalena Andersson, were elected by acclamation as the two Presidents of the international meeting.

**2. Vice-Presidents**

7. The following Vice-Presidents were elected by acclamation:  
Eastern European States: Estonia and Romania  
Western European and other States: United States of America
8. Kenya and Sweden were elected as ex officio Vice-Presidents.

**3. Rapporteur-General**

9. Erki Savisaar (Estonia) was designated as Rapporteur-General.

**E. Adoption of the agenda of the international meeting**

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, the international meeting adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document A/CONF.238/1:
  1. Opening of the international meeting.
  2. Election of the two Presidents.
  3. Adoption of the agenda of the international meeting.
  4. Election of officers other than the Presidents.
  5. Organization of work.
  6. Credentials of representatives to the international meeting:
    - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
    - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
  7. General debate.
  8. Leadership dialogues.
  9. Outcome of the international meeting.
  10. Adoption of the report of the international meeting.
  11. Closure of the international meeting.

**F. Organization of work**

11. At the same plenary meeting, the international meeting approved the organization of work as contained in document A/CONF.238/2.
12. At the same meeting, the international meeting recalled General Assembly decision 76/562, by which the General Assembly decided, without setting a precedent for future international meetings, that States and the European Union speaking at the plenary meetings might each submit a pre-recorded statement of their Head of State or Government, which would be played during the general debate of the international meeting, following its introduction by the presiding officer. The international meeting further decided that the content of pre-recorded statements submitted by participants, including those not played during the general debate of the international meeting, would be included in the summary of the discussions of the international meeting.
13. In its decision 75/326, the General Assembly decided that the rules relating to the procedure and the established practice of the General Assembly would apply, mutatis mutandis, to the procedure of the international meeting.

**G. Credentials of representatives to the international meeting**

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 2 June 2022, the international meeting appointed the following States as members of the Credentials Committee, on the basis of the composition of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session: Bahamas, Bhutan, Chile, China, Namibia, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sweden and United States of America.

## H. Documentation

15. The list of documents before the international meeting is contained in the annex to the present report.

## II. General debate

### A. Statements by participating States

16. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 2 June 2022, the international meeting heard addresses by the President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez;\* the President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi; the President of the Comoros, Assoumani Azali; the Chair of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Unity of Libya, Mohamed Younis al-Menfi; the Federal President of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen;\* the President of France, Emmanuel Macron;\* the Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Philip Mpango; the Vice-President of Namibia, Nangolo Mbumba; the Vice-President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez Gómez;\* the Prime Minister of Algeria, Aymen Benabderrahmane; the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Boris Johnson;\* the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama;\* and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed Ali.\*

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Third Vice-President of the Government of Spain, Teresa Ribera; the Deputy Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eve Bazaiba Masudi; the Deputy Prime Minister for Climate Policies of Bulgaria, Borislav Sandov; the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European Affairs of North Macedonia, Bojan Marichikj; the Federal Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan, Sherry Rehman (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); the Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries of the European Union, Virginijus Sinkevičius; the Minister for Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco, Leila Benali (on behalf of the African Group, and in a national capacity); the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry of Kenya, Keriako Tobiko; the Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development of Andorra, Sílvia Calvó Armengol; the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, Orlando Jorge Mera; and the Minister for the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador, Gustavo Rafael Manrique Miranda.

18. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 2 June 2022, statements were made by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment of the United Arab Emirates, Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri; the Minister for the Environment of Estonia, Erki Savisaar; Minister for the Climate and the Environment of Norway, Espen Barth Eide; the Minister for the Environment of Brazil, Joaquim Alvaro Pereira Leite; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Monaco, Isabelle Berro-Amadeï; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Abdul Kalam Abdul Momen; the Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment of Singapore, Amy Khor; the Minister for the Environment, the Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development of Cameroon, Pierre Hélé; the Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus, Constantinos Kadis; the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Steven Guilbeault; the Acting Minister for the Environment of Iraq, Jasim al-Mohammed; the Minister for the Environment of Slovakia, Ján Budaj; the Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany, Steffi Lemke; the Minister of State for Social Affairs of Angola, Carolina Cerqueira; the Minister for the Environment of Uruguay, Adrián Peña; the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar, Marie-Orléa Vina; the Minister for the Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania, Barna Tánczos; the Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of Portugal, Duarte Cordeiro; the Minister for the Environment of Egypt, Yasmine Fouad; the Minister for the Environment of Sierra Leone, Foday Jaward; the Minister for the Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, Siti Nurbaya Bakar; the Minister for European Union Affairs of Sweden, Hans Dahlgren; the Minister for the Environment of Jordan, Muawieh Radaideh; the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Technology of Maldives, Aminath Shauna; the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change of Qatar, Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali Al Thani; the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources of the Gambia, Rohey John; the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, Juan Cabandié; the Minister for Science, Technology and the Environment of Cuba, Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya; the Minister for the

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\* Statement delivered by pre-recorded video message.

Environment and Climate Change of Finland, Emma Kari; the Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and the Environment of Seychelles, Flavien Joubert; the Minister for Environmental Affairs of Israel, Tamar Zandberg; the Minister for the Environment of the Netherlands, Vivianne Heijnen; the Minister for the Environment of Rwanda, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya; the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Djibouti, Mohamed Abdoukader Moussa; the Minister for Land and the Environment of Mozambique, Ivete Joaquim Maibaze; the Minister for the Environment, Forests and Climate Change of India, Bhupender Yadav; the Minister, Head of the Environment Authority of the State of Palestine, Nisreen Tamimi; the Minister for Labour and Administration Reform of the Sudan, Suad Eltayeb Hassan Abdelgader; the Minister for the Environment, the Climate and the Tourism and Hospitality Industry of Zimbabwe, Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu; the Minister for the Environment of Denmark, Lea Wermelin; the Minister for the Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation of Burkina Faso, Maminata Traoré Coulibaly; and the Secretary of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, Robert Eric Borje.

19. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, the international meeting heard statements by the Minister for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management of Belize, Orlando Habet; the Minister for the Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana, Kwaku Afriyie; the Minister for the Climate, the Environment, Sustainable Development and the Green Deal of Belgium, Zakia Khattabi; the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation of Jamaica, Mathew Samuda; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, Michael Moussa-Adamo; the Minister for the Environment of Tunisia, Leila Chikhaoui-Mahdaoui; Minister for the Green Economy and the Environment of Zambia, Collins Nzovu; the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of the Bahamas, Vaughn Peterson Miller; and the Chairman of the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of Uzbekistan, Narzullo Oblomuradov.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Deputy Minister for the Environment of Armenia, Aram Meymaryan; the Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Nino Tandilashvili; the Vice-Minister for Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan, Zulfıya Suleimenova; the State Secretary of the Ministry of Technology and Industry of Hungary, Anikó Raisz; the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy, Ilaria Fontana; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Freddy Mamani Machaca; the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico, Martha Delgado Peralta; the Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Rauf Hajiyev; the Deputy Minister for the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye, Mehmet Emin Birpınar; the Minister of State for the Environment of Nigeria, Sharon Ikeazor; the Secretary for Climate Change of the Presidency and Vice-Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua, Javier Gutierrez Ramirez; the Vice-Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Phouvong Luangxaysana; the Minister of State for the Environment of Uganda, Beatrice Anywar Atim; the State Secretary, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland, Katrin Schneeberger; the Deputy Minister, Climate Change and Carbon Neutral Policy Office of the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Korea, Beob-jeong Kim; and the Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of Japan, Yutaka Shoda.

21. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand, the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Côte d'Ivoire, Oman, Nepal, Barbados, Guatemala (on behalf of the Association of Caribbean States and in a national capacity), the Republic of Moldova, Vanuatu, the Marshall Islands, Eritrea, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Peru, Kyrgyzstan, Australia, China, Paraguay, Senegal, Greece, Poland, Somalia, Croatia, Slovenia, Tuvalu, Costa Rica and Yemen.

22. At the same meeting, the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan made statements in the exercise of the right of reply.

23. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, the international meeting heard statements by the representatives of Latvia, South Africa and the Russian Federation.

## **B. Statements by representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in international conferences and of other intergovernmental organizations accredited to the international meeting**

24. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: the Council of Europe, the Black Sea Economic

Cooperation Organization, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the University for Peace, the secretariat of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Development Law Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

### **C. Statements by representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and related organizations, and major groups and other stakeholders**

25. Also at the 4th plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, statements were made by representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes: the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the following major groups and other stakeholders: children and youth; interfaith; women; indigenous peoples; local authorities; the scientific and technological community; business and industry; and the major group consortium.

#### **Summary**

27. The following summary is included in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of annex II to General Assembly resolution 75/326.

#### **1. Stockholm+50: the historical legacy of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment**

28. During the general debate, many speakers alluded to the historical significance and legacy of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, which had marked the beginning of the modern era of environmental awareness and action. The conference had taken a decisive step towards identifying the environment as a fundamental asset for the social and economic development of all countries. The establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in the aftermath of the conference, had been an important milestone in strengthening global environmental governance. The principles affirmed in the Stockholm Declaration, the outcome document of the Conference, had been the inspiration of much of the subsequent global action on the environment and remained more pertinent than ever 50 years later as the planet faced unprecedented threats to its well-being. Those attending the 1972 conference had, in a spirit of hope and optimism, entrusted future generations with the task of placing care for the environment high on the international agenda.

29. Within that context, many speakers remarked that the current meeting represented an opportunity to reflect on progress, gaps and challenges, and to assess what actions needed to be undertaken to fulfil the aspirations articulated for humanity and the environment in Stockholm in 1972. Some noted that UNEP and the United Nations Environment Assembly and the multilateral environmental agreements, among other processes, would play a crucial role in achieving those goals. The theme of the current meeting – “A healthy planet for the prosperity of all: our responsibility, our opportunity” – conveyed the vision for the actions that needed to be taken to ensure the health and prosperity of the planet and humanity.

30. Some representatives highlighted the value derived from the preparations for the meeting, which had provided an opportunity for dialogue among key stakeholders – including Governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the business sector and youth groups – on how to approach environmental and sustainable development challenges in a cooperative manner, and how to translate motivation into action to achieve a green transformation in economies and societies.

#### **2. 1972–2022: an era of environmental agreements and initiatives**

31. Many speakers referred to the numerous international environmental agreements and other initiatives that had built on the foundation of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Those included the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, and its Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which had laid the foundation for sustainable development and had led to the

formulation of three major conventions – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and its Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development represented another key milestone in efforts to bring human development and the environment into alignment.

32. The Paris Agreement on climate change, adopted in 2015, aimed to accelerate global action on climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance, while the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which had come into force in 2019, aimed to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons, potent greenhouse gases. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, along with the more recently adopted Minamata Convention on Mercury, continued to play a crucial role in protecting human health and the environment from the dangers posed by chemicals and wastes, while the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented an attempt by the global community to provide an overarching framework that recognized the interconnectivity of all actions to achieve a sustainable future for the planet. It was to be hoped that a convention to combat plastic pollution would be established following the landmark agreement reached at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to negotiate such a convention.

33. The success of those and other initiatives had shown that multilateral environmental action was effective when based on scientific evidence, leadership and cooperation among all parties, supported by capacity and resources. But while those agreements, and other measures adopted at global summits and conferences, had created a high-quality framework for joint action towards a more sustainable future, enactment of concrete measures to achieve the goals set had proved more elusive. Consequently, environmental challenges were mounting at a much faster pace than the global community was able to address them.

### **3. Environmental challenges growing in number and complexity**

34. Despite the laudable measures alluded to in the preceding paragraphs, the environmental challenges facing the planet remained daunting, not only in their quantity, but also in their increasing complexity in a rapidly changing world. Of particular significance was the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, which had been identified as the major obstacles to sustainable development, and which contributed significantly to poverty, food insecurity and the incidence and spread of disease and had brought the Earth dangerously close to tipping points beyond which there would be little chance of recovery.

35. With only a few years left to reverse that trend, the current meeting represented an opportunity to unlock a better future for humanity through bold action to deliver on the many commitments made, including to preserve the gains achieved while also ensuring that no one was left behind. In that context, increased political will and application of the principles of “polluter pays” and of common but differentiated responsibilities were cited by some, along with easier access to green financing, as important elements for success.

36. Regarding climate change, global temperature increases caused by emissions of greenhouse gases had led to rises in sea levels and the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events, including floods, droughts, sand and dust storms, and intense hurricanes. Certain locations were particularly vulnerable, such as small island developing States threatened by rising sea levels, coral reefs dying because of rapid changes in the oceans harbouring them, and mountain regions affected by ice melt and changing ecosystems. Increasing desertification was another challenge for some States. Despite the measures adopted under the Paris Agreement and the Kigali Amendment, science had demonstrated that keeping global warming within the 1.5°C target would not be achieved without a considerable increase in commitment and action, including in the area of finance.

37. The planet was also facing unprecedented biodiversity loss stemming from anthropogenic causes, with many species nearing extinction. Biodiversity loss and land degradation, including deforestation and the loss of natural habitats, reduced the ability of ecosystems to provide environmental goods and services and support livelihoods.

38. Furthermore, pollution and unmanaged wastes had emerged as major negative consequences of an approach to development that focused on business profitability to the detriment of external costs to society and the environment. Plastic waste had become ubiquitous and was a particular threat to marine ecosystems. Manufactured chemicals, plastics, antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals were proliferating at a rate beyond the capacity of science to assess and control their potential negative consequences. Mercury pollution had emerged as a major threat to human health and the environment

in a diverse range of settings, including artisanal and small-scale gold mining and the use of dental amalgam in dentistry.

39. It was noted that the focus on the triple planetary crisis should not deflect attention from other challenges, such as energy supply, the cost of living, resource limitations and conflict. In that regard, a number of representatives expressed regret at the ongoing conflict sparked by what many termed an unprovoked and unjustified attack by the Russian Federation on Ukraine, the environmental, human, social and economic costs of which extended far beyond the region, disproportionately affecting developing countries in particular. Humanitarian crises were on the rise as populations were displaced because of the disruption of their habitable environments by social unrest, conflict, habitat destruction and extreme weather events.

40. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic of recent years had, in addition to its far-reaching health-related, economic and social consequences, brought into sharp focus the risks inherent in neglecting biological safety, while highlighting the lack of systemic preparedness to deal with major health shocks. It had also severely slowed or, in some cases, reversed progress towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and it had revealed the perils of failing to combat challenges in a cooperative and collaborative manner. With its pernicious impact on vulnerable populations, the pandemic had also highlighted the existing inequalities in many societies, thereby emphasizing the need to achieve environmentally sustainable development with equity in mind.

41. That accumulation of environmental ills emanated from human failure to put in place sustainable models of production and consumption, threatening the very existence of humanity as well as the environment on which it depended. Inefficient food and agricultural systems were resulting in widespread food insecurity and unhealthy diets. Extreme poverty was increasing. Large segments of the population in many countries had difficulty accessing drinking water, health services and education.

42. In summary, the burgeoning challenges facing humanity and the environment on which it depended constituted a huge, combined threat that could only be combated by a global commitment to cooperative and collaborative action, premised on solidarity between and within countries.

#### **4. Action needed for a healthy planet**

43. Overall, representatives called for accelerated action on existing internationally agreed objectives, including the targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. In terms of areas for priority action, many mentioned carbon neutrality as an important goal for their country, including, for some, through reduced forest and land degradation, enhanced reforestation, a move towards renewable energy, energy efficiency in the built infrastructure, and resource efficiency in key sectors such as agriculture.

44. Many representatives also underscored the urgency of switching to sustainable consumption and production and circular economy practices, with one drawing attention to the global strategy on sustainable consumption and production put forward by the One Planet network. It was stressed that in a circular economy, in which products were designed to last, to be repaired, and to be recycled, throw-away items would be a thing of the past.

45. In order to protect the planet, many representatives noted that it was necessary to adopt a new paradigm premised on long-term economic thinking that valued well-being over gross domestic product; on moral and spiritual values that recognized the intrinsic value of all beings; on an explicit recognition of the right of every human being to a healthy environment; and on a recognition of “ecocide” as an international crime. Several representatives suggested that resources currently invested in harmful fossil fuel and agricultural subsidies be used to scale up sustainable sectors and achieve a transformation of sectors with high environmental impact, such as energy generation, manufacturing and large-scale agriculture, while providing social protection to displaced workers and job opportunities for young people, women and marginalized groups.

46. Several representatives emphasized the role of indigenous knowledge in addressing the challenges of climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation, and combating desertification and land degradation. It was noted that, in order to leave no one behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Member States must uphold their commitments under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by recognizing and protecting the lands and resources of indigenous peoples.

47. One representative, stressing that an increasingly digital society led to an increasing amount of energy consumed, material used, and e-waste generated if those issues were not properly addressed, said that Member States must adopt international standards and guidance for implementing circular

economy principles and transitioning to green energy solutions in the information, communication and technology sector; ensure free and open access to high-quality data and information for use in policymaking; and create an enabling environment to ensure total radio silence in the bands used globally for monitoring various environmental indicators.

48. Peace was cited by many representatives as a prerequisite for sustainable development and a healthy planet. Alluding to the environmental damage caused by the invasion of Ukraine, one representative said that it was imperative to work together to rid the world of nuclear weapons in order to prevent catastrophic harm. Another representative emphasized that environmental pollution, over-fertilization, resource exploitation and environmental degradation endangered peace and stability, and that environmental policy was a policy of peace that, if successful, could help prevent conflicts over natural resources and minimize or prevent the impact of harmful events such as pandemics.

49. A wide array of points and suggestions were made by stakeholder representatives, who coordinated among themselves to make interventions outlining their respective efforts in preparation for Stockholm+50 and summarized the key messages on behalf of their respective stakeholder groups and workstreams: interfaith; women; indigenous peoples; local authorities; science and academia; youth; business and industry; the major group consortium project; and regional and national consultations. Their key messages included:

- Local communities should be partners and decision makers in all mining activities;
- Global value chains should become sustainable and prioritize traditional and local producers and markets;
- All trade and investment should ensure respect for human rights and fair prices for small-scale producers and local communities;
- Sustainable finance should be available for achieving sustainable development;
- Full recognition is needed of the short-, medium- and long-term environmental impact of companies' operations in financial markets;
- The energy transition, including the development and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency, is needed;
- A major shift in agriculture and livestock farming practices is required, including through the promotion of agroecological farming, the use of biofertilizers and the application of alternatives to chemical pesticides, as well as the provision of financial and technical support to local farming communities and small-scale farmers;
- Environmental conservation should be encouraged through the creation of protected areas;
- The use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches should be extended to curb land degradation and tackle climate change;
- Business-as-usual urban development models that result in urban sprawl, segregation and privatization should be replaced with models that produce compact, integrated and connected cities that minimize environmental impact and improve the health and quality of life of citizens; the "One Health" approach;
- The science-policy interface should be strengthened;
- Natural capital accounting should be expanded;
- Plastic pollution needs to be tackled, including through national measures to phase out harmful plastics and through the negotiation by 2024 of a new treaty to end plastic pollution;
- Oceans and other water resources should be protected and used sustainably;
- All countries should fully implement the "polluter pays" principle;
- Environmental education should be introduced from a young age, accompanied by training in the knowledge and skills needed to work in the green economy and digital transformation;
- A rights-based approach should be implemented, whereby individuals would enjoy an enforceable right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;



- Participatory and inclusive decision-making processes should be adopted at every level to ensure the meaningful engagement of all rights-holders, especially youth and the vulnerable;
- A strong legal framework should be developed, under which transnational corporations would be held liable for environmental damage and those affected would have access to justice.

50. A number of stakeholder groups also submitted the outcomes of their stakeholder engagement efforts, including the indigenous peoples and local communities declaration; Stockholm+50 interfaith statement, “Faith values and reach – contribution to environmental policy”; and the global youth policy paper. Additional details on the various stakeholder contributions to Stockholm+50, including preparatory actions, side events, special events and associated events, are available in information document A/CONF.238/INF/3.

## 5. Multilateralism and cooperation

51. While many representatives described actions being taken by their Governments at the national level, almost all recognized that national Governments alone could not overcome the global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and rising pollution. Cooperation among countries, both regionally and globally, as well as within countries was viewed as essential for progress on sustainable development. One representative called for reform of the global trade order to make way for trade agreements that fully integrated climate and biodiversity objectives and reflected an agenda of transparency.

52. Many representatives called for strengthened multilateral cooperation and for full use of the multilateral system. Several drew a link between multilateralism and solidarity, the latter being characterized as a sense of shared responsibility for one another and for future generations and the planet they would inherit. One representative stressed that international cooperation should be inclusive and take place within the rules-based international order.

53. Cooperation within countries was also mentioned by several representatives, who stressed that successful implementation of internationally agreed objectives, as well as national initiatives, required national Governments to partner with subnational governments and a cross-section of civil society, including young people, indigenous peoples, private sector entities and faith-based groups. Several representatives cited a need for close cooperation between national and subnational authorities, stressing that most of the infrastructure that would exist in 2050 had not yet been built, and that local authorities played a key role in determining how cities and other human settlements were designed and managed. Such cooperation should focus on urban planning that enabled resource efficiency and the phasing out of fossil fuels, built resilience to climate change, and promoted zero-carbon buildings, green zones and a circular economy in which water, waste and material loops were closed.

54. Widespread support was expressed for enabling active and meaningful participation by key stakeholders, including women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, in environmental decision-making, implementation and monitoring at all levels. Many representatives highlighted in particular the role of young people, as the representatives of the future, in the shaping and implementation of environmental policy. Many representatives said that climate action and commitments, as well as commitments undertaken by Member States under multilateral environmental agreements, must respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. One representative suggested that the implementation of the principle be extended to industrial conversions to circular economic models in developing countries, which would require considerable resources.

55. Many representatives of developing countries spoke about the importance of adequate financial resources for combating climate change and addressing other environmental challenges. A number noted that, while developed countries were primarily responsible for the climate crisis, developing countries were more likely to suffer the consequences. Several recalled that the promised \$100 billion fund for developing countries had not yet materialized and urged developed countries to meet that commitment, with one calling for compliance with the commitment to be monitored. Several representatives emphasized the need for greater overall accessibility and efficiency of financial flows for both mitigation and adaptation.

56. Representatives from developing countries also called for international cooperation in the form of enhanced technology transfer, including to support digital connectivity and health care; for strategic partnerships with the private sector and international financial institutions, particularly in the agricultural sector, to support local food production and the scaling up of technological innovations in the agricultural sector; and for support for enabling institutional, policy and investment environments.

### III. Leadership dialogues

57. The substantive summaries of the leadership dialogues are included below in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of annex II to General Assembly resolution 75/326.

#### A. Leadership dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all

##### Procedural summary

58. On 2 June 2022, in the afternoon, the Co-Chair and Minister for the Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Steven Guilbeault, declared leadership dialogue 1 open and made an opening statement. The Co-Chair and Minister for the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador, Gustavo Rafael Manrique Miranda, also made an opening statement.

59. The leadership dialogue was moderated by the Chief Executive Officer of The Conversation Strategists, Nozipho Tshabalala, who also made a statement. In Panel I, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Secretary-General of Religions for Peace, Azza Karam; the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Achim Steiner; the youth activist and founder of the Rise Up Movement, Vanessa Nakate; the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate for the United States, John Kerry; and the European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius.

60. In the ensuing interactive discussion, the moderator and panellists responded to the comments made and questions posed by the Third Vice-President of the Government of Spain, Teresa Ribera; the Federal Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan, Sherry Rehman (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); the Minister for the Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism of Botswana, Philda Nani Kereng; the Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Rauf Hajiyev; the Minister for the Climate, the Environment, Sustainable Development and the Green Deal of Belgium, Zakia Khattabi; the Minister for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management of Belize, Orlando Habet; the Minister for Science, Technology and the Environment of Cuba, Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya; the Vice-Minister for the Environment of Czechia, Jan Dusík; the Minister for the Environment of Denmark, Lea Wermelin; and the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, Orlando Jorge Mera.

61. Representatives of the following international organizations participated in the discussion: the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Health Organization.

62. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the discussion: the World Wide Fund for Nature, Earth-Rights International, the Air Transport Action Group and the Population, Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium.

63. Presentations in Panel II were made by the following panellists: the President of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, Antonio Benjamin; the Director-General of the Centre for Science and Environment, Sunita Narain; and the Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Darío José Mejía Montalvo.

64. In the ensuing interactive discussion, the moderator and panellists responded to the comments made and questions posed by the Minister for the Environment of Estonia, Erki Savisaar; the Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany, Steffi Lemke; the Minister for Environmental Protection of Israel, Tamar Zandberg; the Minister for the Climate and the Environment of Norway, Espen Barth Eide; the Minister of State for the Pacific and the International Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zac Goldsmith; the Minister for the Green Economy and the Environment of Zambia, Collins Nzovu; the Minister without Portfolio, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation of Jamaica, Matthew Samuda; the Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Costa Rica, Christian Guillermet Fernández; the Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Nino Tandilashvili; the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry for Ecological Transition of Italy, Ilaria Fontana; and representatives of Mexico, Greece, Latvia, Nepal and New Zealand.

65. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the discussion: LivingLaw, the World Resources Institute, the Middle East and North Africa Youth Network and ProVeg International.

66. The Co-Chair (Canada) made a closing statement. The Co-Chair (Ecuador) also made a closing statement, then declared leadership dialogue 1 closed.

## Key messages from panellists

67. Opening the dialogue, Mr. Guilbeault said that the preparatory work for the leadership dialogue had resulted in a number of key themes and recommendations: the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; a healthy planet would require effective and fair multilateralism; and the need for integrated and joint approaches. Throughout the preliminary process, representatives of Member States and other stakeholders stressed the responsibilities and roles of Governments and all actors in achieving a healthy planet.

68. Mr. Guilbeault stressed that the priorities for Canada were on the urgent need to take action, to adopt an integrated and coordinated approach to achieve solutions, and for all actors to be engaged, including Governments, the private sector, indigenous peoples, women and girls, youth and other groups. He also highlighted the bottom-up nature of consultations as being an important aspect of all the leadership dialogues.

69. In his opening remarks, Mr. Miranda reminded participants that Stockholm+50 was not only the commemoration of a historic moment, but also an opportunity to take decisive, courageous and bold action, to create partnerships and drive the implementation of existing initiatives forward.

70. He highlighted four key messages to consider in leadership dialogue 1. First, the global sense of urgency that required collective action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Second, urgent global action should focus on promoting just transitions through innovation, investment, access to clean technologies, capacity-building, and the reduction in fossil fuels, leading to their progressive, fair and equitable elimination. Third, action was needed to close the finance gap and accelerate resource mobilization. Fourth, countries should be direct and honest with each other and rethink current models. In concluding, he stressed that controversial ideas, if well managed, could generate opportunities for dialogue and promote creativity in seeking solutions.

71. Key messages from the panellists in leadership dialogue 1 included the following:

- Ms. Karam highlighted the need for a fundamental change in human behaviour to achieve a healthy planet. In view of their unique outreach to society, faith leaders could be key figures in driving this change from the bottom up; they could also play their part in taking responsibility for “greening”.
- Ms. Nakate called for stronger climate justice, including no new extraction of fossil fuels; scaling up and delivering climate finance through grants rather than loans; and setting up a new fund for environment-related loss and damage.
- Mr. Steiner noted that fifty years on from the original Stockholm conference, it was time to repair and revitalize multilateralism. Trust in multilateralism could be rebuilt by ensuring a fair and equitable global platform in which countries with different responsibilities and means met their commitments.
- Mr. Kerry also referred to the urgent need to act now to rebuild trust; actions should be based on science and technologies. He emphasized that a circular and sustainable market was possible and that our dependency on fossil fuels had to end.
- Mr. Benjamin reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the rules-based approach to create a healthy planet and prosperity for all. He noted that we had entered a new era in the environmental movement, one in which implementation and enforcement of the environmental rule of law was critical and urgent, which meant that judges had become key agents of change and action.
- Ms. Narain reflected on the fact that we had heard about environmental injustices – across genders, generations, individuals and countries – mentioned by many stakeholders in the run-up to Stockholm+50. She noted that sustainable development required inclusive and affordable growth, through transformational, rather than incremental action.
- Mr. Sinkevičius called for urgent attention from global policymakers on sustainable consumption and production, which provided high-impact solutions through such approaches as resource efficiency and the circular economy. Creating international dialogue on Sustainable Development Goal 12 would increase attention and enhance knowledge exchange.
- Mr. Mejía Montalvo stressed the extent to which a healthy planet was essential for our social and economic progress, well-being and resilience. There was much to learn from the governance structures and environmental stewardship of indigenous peoples, based on

such principles as humility, harmony and coherence. Ensuring the active participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes related to energy transition was not only evidence of socioeconomic justice, but would bring with it their autonomy, territorial and cultural integrity.

## **General discussion**

### **Resetting our relationship with nature**

72. Many speakers representing Member States and other participants expressed a deep sense of urgency to reset our relationship with nature, to accelerate action to achieve all the pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals. A renewed relationship with nature requires a fundamental and transformational change in our attitudes, habits and behaviours, recognizing that a healthy planet is essential for prosperity. Faith leaders and their institutions need to be actively engaged, as they are a key influence in altering human behaviour; and a move beyond traditional metrics for measuring progress and prosperity is needed.

73. Speakers emphasized the fact that putting nature at the heart and centre of sustainable development would require all actors to halt the loss of, conserve and restore terrestrial and ocean biodiversity and ecosystems, ensuring sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of nature, enabling all actors to contribute to environmental goals, including the 30x30 conservation goal, while being held accountable. There were many calls for the implementation of existing commitments, such as those of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be accelerated, by doing the right things and doing them at scale. Many speakers expressed the need to confront and make difficult choices in relation to production and energy investment, and to implement innovative solutions, such as carbon pricing, thus creating just transitions. The principle of “leave no one behind” is important for States, individuals, businesses and stakeholders.

### **Leadership and accountability**

74. Speakers expressed a clear need to recognize our failure to effectively respond to the scientific evidence on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Many stressed that the window to act was closing fast and that the current decade was critical for collective action. Implementing the Paris Agreement was urgent, as was ceasing to develop new fossil fuels and accelerating efforts for a 1.5°C pathway and carbon neutrality. At the same time, enhanced support to climate adaptation and to address the loss and damage associated with the impact of climate change and environmental crises was required.

75. To take credible action, recommendations were made to break down silos, confront challenges in more comprehensive and pragmatic manner, and tackle all crises in an integrated way, adopting a multidisciplinary approach, with greater collaboration and cooperation among actors. Calls were also made to build more synergistic action on climate and biodiversity through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, effectively contributing to socioeconomic development. Governments were called upon to deliver on their national and international responsibilities, ensure that their national plans covered all sectors and actors with clear lines of accountability, and fulfil their international commitments for the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries.

76. Above all, leadership was seen as a vital element for success. While there was hope and confidence in their promises and commitments, many speakers highlighted the fact that creating trust would require the implementation of these commitments, taking urgent action and leading by example. Strengthening nationally determined contributions, scaling-up sustainable finance, supporting a robust biodiversity framework and working towards solutions for global plastics were all suggested as opportunities to demonstrate leadership.

### **Inclusion and intergenerational equity: rights and duties**

77. Many speakers emphasized the need to ensure that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was achieved for all and that nature was respected: in order to achieve a healthy planet, rights-based approaches must include, among other things, a recognition of the rights of nature and the full respect, promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities, in frameworks at all levels.

78. All actors, including women and young people, have a meaningful role to play in providing solutions to societal challenges, and that requires the engagement of civil society organizations. Many speakers representing Member States and other participants stressed the need for a clear strategy for

integrating inclusive gender policies into environmental governance plans, including, some suggested, by addressing barriers to women being decision makers and ensuring their sexual and reproductive rights. It was recognized that obligations on intergenerational equity required accounting for the perspectives and needs of young people. Sustainable development policies should include young people, ensuring that they could contribute to and benefit from those transformations and become drivers of change.

79. The indivisibility of peace, rule of law and the fulfilment of human rights with efforts towards a healthy planet for the prosperity of all was recognized. Several speakers stressed that all diplomatic means should be mobilized to address ongoing conflict, which, among its many tragic effects, had a destructive impact on the environment. Some indicated that nature-related crimes were a leading threat to peace, prosperity and global stability. Nature-based solutions could not be promoted in lawless territories. Nature crime should be treated as a serious crime and its impact needed to be better understood. Action against it required more funding, greater operational capacity and more innovative partnerships within and between countries. Speakers stressed that environmental defenders and indigenous communities needed to be better supported.

#### **Restoring trust through effective multilateralism and partnerships**

80. Speakers representing Member States and other participants noted that building trust through a fair platform was important to accelerate action, bringing together different actors and means to respond to our shared challenges, and giving every country the right to be heard. Trust could also be built by taking effective multilateral action and, individually and collectively, implementing agreements on shared objectives. Every country was required to fulfil its national and international responsibilities.

81. Speakers representing Member States shared details of the progress they were making on integrating environmental considerations into national development strategies. They also recommended action to strengthen international and transboundary cooperation on environmental matters and water management, as well as helping to improve the flow of knowledge and expertise. Those required governance structures that could incorporate indigenous views, knowledge and needs in designing a just transition. Some noted that their local challenges called for global solutions and actions to deliver just transitions, which in turn could be accelerated through greater cooperation on investment, innovation, clean technologies and the transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just and equitable manner. It was recognized that businesses, both large and small, were committed to and already investing in sustainability.

82. Recommended actions included investing in people, science, education and innovation; the sharing of knowledge and technology; partnerships; and creating appropriate regulatory frameworks.

#### **Accelerating systemic changes in consumption and production systems with fair transitions in high-impact sectors**

83. Many speakers emphasized that accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12 was essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda, building a healthy planet and realizing prosperity for all, and some suggested that it was not being given the attention it deserved. Linear production models and over-consumption were driving the current environmental crisis. Sustainable consumption and production should be at the heart of solutions for moving from the status quo to decoupling growth from environmental and socioeconomic harm.

84. Three key recommendations for action to increase progress towards the achievement of Goal 12 were proposed: transforming sustainable supply and value chains, addressing resource efficiency and promoting circular economy approaches, and establishing an international inter-stakeholder forum to address those common challenges. Sustainable consumption and production are cross-cutting priorities, and a number of speakers suggested that the United Nations and the One Planet network could bring together support for youth-led action in their local communities.

85. Many speakers representing Member States and other participants stressed the need to design circular economy approaches for all countries, including efforts to make trade a greater force for good, creating fair outcomes for people while avoiding harm such as pollution and externalized environmental impact. Some speakers pointed out that environmental standards in importing countries needed to be strengthened and that the World Trade Organization could play a leading role in bringing that about.

86. Some speakers noted that sustainable cities and urbanization are crucial to tackling the triple planetary crisis in terms of how people and goods move about, and that whether green and inclusive growth can be achieved will be closely tied to which future infrastructure needs are met and how.

National policies and legislation were called for to provide for an effective enabling environment. Others called for the deployment of the technologies already available and for developing countries to be provided with assistance in technology transfer and capacity-building. The business community (not only large companies, but also small and medium-sized enterprises) recognized the escalating environmental crisis and was taking the lead on action and innovation for a low-carbon, nature-positive and pollution-free future. It was noted that eco-innovation partnerships could facilitate the transfer of technology for widespread adoption of renewable energies, regenerative production techniques and enhanced value-chain transparency.

87. Access to healthy, nutritious food was recognized as a key factor closely connected with the environment. Speakers called for an approach in which food systems were designed in a sustainable manner, including reducing the burden on the planet through reduced pollution and energy use, for example, by improving management practices and encouraging the availability of local products. Eliminating harmful subsidies and facilitating access to affordable, healthy and nutritious food was also suggested by some speakers as a possible priority for national governments.

88. Finally, speakers stressed that the transformation of economic and financial sectors had to be fair and enable a just transition. The scale of economic transformation necessary would not be achieved with incremental steps, and many actors would require financial and capacity support to overcome initial barriers and achieve enduring change.

### **Repurposing, mobilizing and scaling finance**

89. Many interventions addressed the urgency of aligning financial flows – public and private, domestic and international – with environmental, climate and development commitments. Scaling up sustainable finance and eliminating fossil fuel subsidies could contribute to closing the finance gap and increasing resource mobilization. Some participants stressed that implementing commitments on financing, including developed countries fulfilling their undertaking to assist developing nations in both climate mitigation and adaptation measures by contributing USD 100 billion per year, will enhance trust in multilateral approaches. Repurposing subsidies currently allocated to fossil fuels, agriculture and fisheries that are harmful to biodiversity and the environment would release the finance that is needed for investment in nature, innovation and nature-based solutions. Speakers highlighted the need for the political will and commitment to put such just transitions in place using existing means.

90. Speakers representing Member States and other participants saw Stockholm+50 marking the point at which international financial flows, including from the International Monetary Fund and multilateral development banks, should be scaled up to help developing countries implement and accelerate their sustainable development, environmental and climate action commitments. Examples included enhancing the provision of grant financing and loans, as appropriate, in accordance with the Rio Principles (contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development), and the development of a framework that included a substantial increase in finance, capacity-building and technology transfer for implementation in developing countries. The recent announcement by the Group of Seven, recognizing that action and support for vulnerable countries, populations and groups needed to be further scaled up and emphasizing the role of private and public sources, including from its members, in providing enhanced support towards averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse impact of climate change, was welcomed. Calls were made by Member States for leaders to acknowledge the need for a loss and damage fund.

91. Participants recommended that the market should recognize the true value of a healthy planet and pursue socioeconomic systems in which pollution, degradation and waste become unbearable liabilities. Accountability, rights and responsibilities, the sharing of technology and knowledge, and other means of implementation are all critical steps towards a healthy planet.

### **Summary points of leadership dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all**

1. Resetting our relationship with nature is essential to achieve peace and a healthy planet and prosperity for all. Speakers representing Member States and other participants expressed a real sense of urgency to act, at the required scale, and transform our socioeconomic systems. It was recognized that these transformations require new measures of progress and human well-being, and a fundamental change in attitudes and behaviour.
2. Greater accountability is required to deliver on national and international responsibilities and address the triple planetary crisis in integrated ways. Leadership is essential to drive the sustainability agenda, both in fulfilling existing commitments and to further global cooperation on the climate, biodiversity and pollution agendas.
3. It is recognized that human rights, intergenerational equity and inclusion are all fundamental elements of sustainable development. Action to transform socioeconomic systems can be informed by the human right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment, as well as by remedying the effect that current development impact can have on human rights and the upholding of justice.
4. Restoring trust through effective multilateralism and partnerships can strengthen international cooperation and solidarity. A fair platform is important to accelerate action, bringing together different actors, providing the means to respond to shared challenges and giving every country the right to be heard.
5. Systemic changes in consumption and production systems need to be accelerated, providing for fair transitions in high-impact sectors, including food systems. Action to scale up progress on Sustainable Development Goal 12 includes transforming value chains, addressing resource efficiency and promoting circular economy approaches. Business and multi-stakeholder approaches have an important role to play.
6. Achieving a healthy planet and prosperity for all requires the alignment of financial flows: public and private, domestic and international. The political will and political commitment to drive just transitions, scaling-up sustainable finance and repurposing harmful subsidies, as well as building capacity and sharing technology and knowledge are all critical steps in that process.

## **B. Leadership dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

### **Procedural summary**

92. On 3 June 2022, in the afternoon, the Co-Chair and Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany, Steffi Lemke, declared leadership dialogue 2 open and made an opening statement. The Co-Chair and Director-General for Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Tri Tharyat, also made an opening statement.
93. The leadership dialogue was moderated by the Chief Executive Officer of The Conversation Strategists, Nozipho Tshabalala, who also made a statement. In Panel I, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Senior Adviser to the Chief Executive Officer of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Dominic Waughray; the co-founder and Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Youth Network, Reem al-Saffar; the Chairman of the board of TriCiclos, Gonzalo Muñoz; and the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Blue Economy and Sustainable Development of the African Union Commission, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko.
94. In the ensuing interactive discussion, the moderator and panellists responded to the comments made and questions posed by the Prime Minister of Algeria, Aymen Benabderrahmane; the Federal Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan, Sherry Rehman (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); the Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries of the European Union, Virginijus Sinkevičius; the Minister for the Environment of Lithuania, Simonas Gentvilas; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Abdul Kalam Abdul Momen; the Minister for the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador, Gustavo Rafael Manrique Miranda; the Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of Portugal, Duarte Cordeiro; the Regional Minister for Environment and Mobility of Austria, Daniel Zadra; and the Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the United States, Monica Medina.

95. Representatives of the following United Nations entities participated in the discussion: the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth.
96. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the discussion: the Stockholm Environment Institute, Yachay Wasi, Fridays for Future Peru, the Green Climate Fund, the Foundation for Environment and Development, Women for Change, and Welfare Togo.
97. In Panel II, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, David Boyd; the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez; the Executive Director of Indigenous Peoples Rights International, Joan Carling; and the Co-Chair of the International Resources Panel, Janez Potočnik.
98. In the ensuing interactive discussion, the moderator and panellists responded to the comments made and questions posed by the Minister for the Environment of Libya, Ibrahim Munir; the Minister for Agriculture of Argentina, Julián Andrés Dominguez; the Undersecretary of the Regional Development Group of the National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines, Mercedita Sombilla; the Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of Japan, Yutaka Shoda; the Deputy Minister for the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye, Mehmet Emin Birpınar; and by the representatives of Kenya, Finland, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, France, Morocco, Peru, Sri Lanka and Guatemala.
99. The representative of the International Labour Organization also participated in the discussion.
100. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the discussion: Vi Agroforestry, Chatham House, University Student Chambers International, the Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development, the Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago, Meta Mind (Normative) and the Recycling Partnership.
101. The Co-Chair (Germany) made a closing statement. The Co-Chair (Indonesia) also made a closing statement, then declared leadership dialogue 2 closed.

#### **Key messages from panellists**

102. Opening the dialogue, Ms. Lemke highlighted some of the ways in which the drastic economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had set back global efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, pushing people back into extreme poverty. Despite the fact that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions had fallen briefly during the pandemic, they had since risen back to a record high. She noted that vulnerable population groups had been particularly hard hit, making clear yet again the need for joint commitment and international solidarity to ensure that no one was left behind in tackling global problems and achieving long-term solutions. A new kind of relationship with nature, and an efficient and sustainable use of natural resources could be key to finding those solutions.
103. Ms. Lemke urged participants to use leadership dialogue 2 to discuss cross-cutting issues that were crucial to overcoming the negative impact of the pandemic while also achieving climate and environmental goals. In that context, she underlined the transition to a circular economy as of the utmost importance, with a focus on green recovery measures in those sectors that were most affected by the pandemic and that were essential for sustainable development: food production, energy and resources and sustainable production patterns. She said that, when used wisely, system-based solutions for resource efficiency and digitalization could offer enormous economic, social and environmental opportunities.
104. In his opening remarks, Mr. Tharyat noted that the shared understanding of those who took part in the preparatory process for leadership dialogue 2 was that to ensure a strong, sustainable and inclusive recovery, the challenges posed by and the impact that had resulted from the pandemic, whether in economic, social or environmental developments, must first be acknowledged. Coupled with problems arising from uneven health access and vaccination rates, the supply chain, employment and labour markets, and global trade, the situation had caused the equality gap between developed and developing countries to widen even further. In addition, the challenges of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, combating climate change and eradicating poverty had increased.
105. In highlighting the preparatory process, he reminded participants of the three key considerations for a sustainable and inclusive recovery: addressing the gaps that had not only emerged, but been exacerbated by the pandemic; the need to create an enabling environment that could



encourage collaboration at all levels of society between stakeholders and among countries; and the need to remain true to the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

106. Key messages from the panellists in leadership dialogue 2 included the following:

- Mr. Waughray outlined how businesses have been part of Stockholm+50, discussing and preparing an action agenda that sought to make transformational changes. He listed three priority areas in which the private sector should take action: developing an accountability and transparency mechanism to monitor progress on science-based targets from business; developing a global circularity protocol to harmonize concepts, standards and metrics on the circular economy; and developing skills to stimulate the growth of innovative jobs.
- Ms. al-Saffar said that her key message for decision makers of the current generation in the context of Covid recovery and a sustainable future was for countries to invest in their greatest asset: young people. She stressed that accountability was key to move from commitment to action. She also emphasized that ensuring access to green technologies was critical for climate action, along with circular economy systems, capacity-building and greater digital connectivity, particularly in rural areas.
- Mr. Muñoz noted that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both developed and developing countries could play a vital role in transforming high-impact sectors. For that to happen, however, SMEs had to put purpose and nature at the centre of their value chains and business plans. He presented a number of tools that were available to support countries in transforming high-impact sectors, such as the SME Climate Hub.
- Ms. Sacko highlighted the fact that the time was ripe for Africa to fulfil its true potential and that a key priority would be to invest in the transformation of the agricultural sector, not only ensuring its sustainability, but also its contribution to poverty eradication, food security and nutrition. Regional instruments, such as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme, and partnerships, such as the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, were supporting that transformation.
- Mr. Boyd described the ways in which a human rights-based approach can play a role in supporting the transformation of economic sectors that have a large climate, nature or pollution footprint. Harnessing the full power of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, through the recently adopted resolution of the General Assembly (resolution 76/300), could catalyse the economic transformations that were needed to tackle the current environmental crisis.
- Mr. Rodríguez set out the need for financing for development and the environment to be mobilized and scaled up on an immense scale. His key message to funds and foundations was that mobilizing and scaling-up financing for sustainable development alone would not be sufficient unless we also changed our principles and redesigned the social contract to protect human, financial and natural capital.
- Ms. Carling noted that innovative solutions existed among indigenous peoples and local communities and that those should be drawn upon in support of a healthy planet. Indigenous peoples were able to teach us the importance of leading sustainable lifestyles, working in cooperation and solidarity, through reciprocal relations with nature and away from a profit-centred approach.
- Mr. Potočnik explained that cleaning the supply side in a “business-as-usual” economic model alone was not the solution; instead, he proposed redesigning the systems of production and consumption based on principles of responsibility and equity, which would mean that in high-income countries, both resource efficiency and sufficiency needed to be promoted. Well-being for all needed to be maximized by optimizing human needs rather than maximizing profit; indeed, if people wanted to avoid the extinction of elephants in nature, they first needed to make extinct the elephants in the conference room.

## **General discussion**

### **Transforming global value chains through sustainable consumption and production and the circular economy**

107. This session moved the language of the discussion from “what should be done” to “what can be done”. Panellists and speakers stressed the importance of concentrating on a system-wide transformation and ensuring that that transformation engages the full value chain.

108. It was noted that the transition to a circular economy would play a fundamental role in enabling that transformation. Speakers suggested that the development of a global roadmap on the circular economy for all stakeholders and the establishment of a global circularity protocol would offer an opportunity to drive businesses in many global value chains, including food, manufacturing and many energy-intensive sectors, to identify common standards, definitions and metrics to advance circularity.

109. A number of speakers also spoke in favour of the establishment of a sustainable consumption and production forum or dialogue under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council, reporting annually to the high-level political forum on sustainable development or the General Assembly, which would facilitate a regular global conversation on best practices and policies on sustainable consumption and production, and would enable barriers to resource efficiency and the circular economy to be identified and tackled.

110. The role of SMEs in the context of global value chains was recognized. Concrete opportunities for SMEs included their commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within Scopes 1 and 2; their shift to purpose-driven business models, in which they demonstrate that they will give more than they take from the planet; and their commitment to invest in nature. It was recalled that SMEs would require support to ensure resilience planning, improve market access for developing countries and improve inclusion in global value chains.

111. Speakers acknowledged that investment flows and stimulus measures should contribute to tackling the triple planetary crisis by addressing its root causes. Some suggested that investment should be aligned with General Assembly resolution 76/300, which recognizes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all. Public institutions should align their public procurement policies and practices with the goals set out therein. Participants emphasized that setting clear targets and coupling them with mechanisms for accountability and transparency was essential. A stronger accountability mechanism would enable businesses to demonstrate their progress towards targets, while at the same time promoting greater collaboration.

#### **Mobilizing high-impact sectors to achieve sustainability and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

112. The discussion then moved on to specific high-impact sectors. In relation to the food sector, speakers noted the need to invest in agriculture and to improve food security status in Africa to avoid malnutrition and hunger and ensure resilience to address the many crises affecting countries across the continent. With regard to the mobility sector, investment in public transport was highlighted as an example of recovery measures aligned with climate, biodiversity, and environmental policies and objectives.

113. The importance of achieving an ambitious agreement to end plastic pollution was also recognized, and speakers representing Member States referred to pledges they already made to support countries in ensuring progress in addressing this crisis while negotiations progress.

114. Many speakers noted that skills development was fundamental to the transformation of the high-impact sector. Reference was made to an initiative on skills development from businesses, drawing on best practice and stimulating new jobs and innovation. Many interventions stressed the importance of investing in young people, the world's greatest asset.

#### **Strengthening solidarity and partnerships**

115. Several speakers observed that the post-COVID-19 recovery agenda was an essential opportunity to strengthen solidarity and accelerate the shift towards sustainability through partnerships, while achieving social objectives and empowering the most vulnerable actors in economies and societies. Some pointed out that it could provide an opportunity to strengthen health infrastructure and align it with the "One Health" approach. Others noted that it should also provide the foundation for redesigning social contracts and helping countries to protect human and natural capital to support nature for a healthy planet and healthy people. The most vulnerable in society, including young people and women, should be front and centre in the recovery.

#### **Building back better through green energy transitions, and through the digital economy**

116. Speakers highlighted the fact that efforts should also be made to drive more sustainable modes of living and consumption through an infrastructure that would make more sustainable choices the norm, including through consumer information and better labelling. For that to be featured on a broader, higher-profile platform, it was suggested that a global pathway to a sustainable lifestyle, aligned with the 1.5°C goal and centred on equality, should be the subject of a regular United Nations forum.

117. Several speakers noted the significant discrepancy in access to green technologies between developed and developing countries, and coupled that with a call for finance to enable access to green technologies, which would help to ensure climate adaptation, mitigation and prevention. It was also recognized that countries and businesses had harnessed technology to allow all sectors to continue to work and provide services during the pandemic, and to sustain their economic activities.

118. The role of digital technology in supporting vulnerable communities was also underlined, as was the need to support connectivity, particularly in rural communities.

119. Several speakers stressed the importance of encouraging research and development in innovation and systems, aimed at strengthening the productive matrix and building integrated and multilevel system-wide approaches.

**Summary points of leadership dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

1. Global value chains should be strengthened to ensure a resilient global economy; that should include creating access to and enhancing capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, small island developing States and least developed countries.
2. Sustainable consumption and production and the circular economy should be harnessed to accelerate the transformation of global value chains. A global dialogue on sustainable consumption and production should be established that could lead to a global roadmap on the circular economy for all stakeholders.
3. Support should be provided to businesses that are at the forefront of driving the shift to circularity. Such support could be underpinned by a global circularity protocol that would set clear targets and track progress through a transparency mechanism.
4. The influence of consumers in transforming global value chains should be recognized; they should have access to the information they need to make sustainable consumer choices.
5. The importance of the food sector for sustainability and as part of the solution for overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic should be recognized; that will require stopping environmentally harmful subsidies and redirecting those funds into sustainable areas, increasing investment in sustainable practices generally and empowering smallholder farmers.
6. Building back better must include green and energy transitions. Mere commitments are not enough: real climate action is needed, action that “walks the walk”, not only “talks the talk”.
7. Women and girls play a vital role in advancing sustainable development. They should be involved at all levels, as should young people and vulnerable groups. The knowledge and experience of indigenous peoples and local communities is also of great value. For the contribution of all these groups to be maximized, they will need access to education, capacity-building and the regulatory framework.
8. As the digital economy and solutions for sustainable development, including e-commerce platforms, have grown in importance, the need for an inclusive platform has become ever more essential to address the digital divide and digital illiteracy, while managing the potential negative impact of digitalization on energy consumption.

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

**Procedural summary**

120. On 3 June 2022, in the afternoon, the Co-Chair and Minister for the Environment of Egypt, Yasmine Fouad, declared leadership dialogue 3 open and made an opening statement. The Co-Chair and Minister for the Environment and Climate Change of Finland, Emma Kari, also made an opening statement.

121. The leadership dialogue was moderated by the Chief Executive Officer of The Conversation Strategists, Nozipho Tshabalala, who also made a statement. Presentations in Panel I were made by the following panellists: the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Arunabha Ghosh; the Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Johan Rockström; policy specialist on international development, Catherine Odora Hoppers; and the Senior Vice-President of the food initiative of The Rockefeller Foundation, Roy Steiner.

122. In the ensuing interactive discussion, the moderator and panellists responded to the comments made and questions posed by the Deputy Prime Minister for Climate Policies of Bulgaria, Borislav Sandov; the Minister for Tourism and the Environment of Albania, Mirela Kumbaro Furxhi; the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Carlos Eduardo Correa Escaf; the Minister for the Environment of Jordan, Muawieh Radaideh; the Minister for the Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia, Naser Nuredini; the Minister for the Environment of Uruguay, Adrián Peña; the Minister for the Environment, Forests and Climate Change of India, Bhupender Yadav; the Minister for the Environment of Rwanda, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah; the Deputy Minister for the Environment of Armenia, Aram Meymaryan; the Minister of State, Department of Justice and Equality of Ireland, James Browne; the Minister for the Environment of Chile, Heloisa Rojas; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, Michael Moussa-Adamo; and the representative of Iraq.

123. Representatives of the following United Nations entities participated in the discussion: the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Trade Organization (on its own behalf and on behalf of the International Trade Centre), the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

124. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the discussion: the B Team, the Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development, Parents for Future, the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty, the SCP Youth Constituency, the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association, the LACEMOS Latin American and Caribbean engagement mechanism and Juventud Unida en Acción.

125. In Panel II, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, Ibrahim Thiaw; the Small Island Developing States Regional Facilitator for the Major Group for Children and Youth of the United Nations Environment Programme, Christianne Zakour; the co-founder and President of Actual, Karthik Balakrishnan; and the incoming Global Director for the Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy of the World Bank, Valerie Hickey.

126. In the ensuing interactive discussion, the moderator and panellists responded to the comments made and questions posed by the Secretary of State for Agriculture and Sustainable Development of Andorra, Marc Rossell Soler; the State Secretary, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland, Katrin Schneeberger; and by the representatives of Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Ethiopia, Kenya, the State of Palestine, Barbados, Canada, the Marshall Islands and Brazil.

127. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations participated in the discussion: the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise and PUSH Sweden.

128. The Co-Chair (Egypt) made a closing statement. The Co-Chair (Finland) also made a closing statement, then declared leadership dialogue 3 closed.

### **Key messages from panellists**

129. Opening the dialogue, Ms. Fouad said that all means of implementation should be made readily available to all stakeholders, in particular those in the developing and least developed countries, so that they could act efficiently and effectively. She highlighted three priorities for raising ambition and accelerating action: first, improving access, quality and quantity of finance for sustainable development and fulfilling past pledges to fund the climate finance gap, along with transparency in tracking the implementation of those pledges and the urgent coordination of sovereign debt relief, debt guarantees, and the pooling of debt risk in the context of climate financing; second, affordable technology transfer for developing countries that ensured a just and equitable transition; and third, raising awareness of and creating positive public consciousness towards both environmental action and climate action, starting by taking immediate action to integrate environmental awareness into our education systems.

130. She called for the spirit of solidarity, cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders to move ahead, through strengthened multilateralism that worked towards a sustainable future built upon the principles of justice and equity, taking into consideration the respective capabilities and historical responsibility associated with climate change in all countries. She reminded participants that the desired action was possible only by upholding the basic rights of States and people for development: the right to progress, to advance, and to strive towards development. There was also an urgent need for

synergy between actions and finance for climate, biodiversity, combatting desertification and pollution.

131. In her opening remarks, Ms. Kari noted the need to embrace the positive spirit of collaboration, the rich discussions, and the ideas and proposals for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that had emanated from the preparatory process of the Stockholm+50 international meeting. She introduced some of the key messages and recommendations that she believed were of importance: aligning global public and private finance flows with climate and biodiversity objectives; Governments strengthening capacity for domestic finance mobilization; a just phase-out of fossil fuels, possibly through the development of a plan for a global just transition for fossil fuel-dependent countries and communities; a better recognition of the impact of consumption and production patterns through domestic and trade policies; and the transition to co-development and the rooting of technology in developing countries to build both local and regional capacity to be able to design and source solutions that were necessary for just and equitable transition.

132. She explained that Finland had decided that national sustainable development strategies would measure the well-being of nature and people alongside traditional economic development, based on the assumption that money alone could make the change if institutions and policies were not fit for purpose. She encouraged countries to develop integrated government structures and institutional arrangements for policy planning and implementation, including the adoption of green budgeting, investing in young people and their education, and to consider ombudspersons to transparently assess the impact of policy choices on future generations.

133. Key messages from the panellists in leadership dialogue 3 included the following:

- Mr. Ghosh acknowledged that strengthened cooperation on access to green technologies, including digital technologies, was a key message from stakeholders. To allow such access, he said, a new paradigm was needed that moved from technology transfer to technology co-development and co-ownership, as well as global clean investment risk mitigation for current technologies.
- Mr. Rockström noted that socioecological systems did not follow geographical borders and had to be managed collectively, ensuring intergenerational justice and working towards science-based targets to stay within a safe operating space. He called for the prioritized transformation of economic and financial systems, beyond the short-term goals of electoral cycles. Drawing on lessons from the past, he observed that science told us that irreversible changes would compromise hospitable conditions on Earth.
- Ms. Odora emphasized that plurality of knowledge and paradigmatic changes were required in our thinking to advance actions for a healthy planet. Science had to become an agent of plurality, where the rights of different knowledge systems to coexist was fully recognized. She stressed the need of constructive intercultural debate to better link modern science to the broader knowledge heritage of humankind.
- Mr. Steiner explained how the scaling up of innovative solutions that strengthened collective action was crucial to accelerating the means of implementation, citing the agrifood sector as an example. He noted that system changes required innovative behavioural change, particularly in moving away from greed, apathy and a lack of imagination.
- Mr. Thiaw described the multi-partner Abidjan Legacy Programme, which was announced at the recent meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as an example of a joint and integrated approach that could accelerate effective climate action, ecosystem restoration, pollution prevention and disaster risk reduction. He noted that transformation implied moving from mining to managing key natural resources, such as land and soil, through inclusive systems that benefited the most vulnerable sectors of society.
- Ms. Zakour considered the drivers for key investments that were needed to revitalize our common future. She indicated that such investments should be guided by three main principles: stronger transparency and accountability; implementation of legally binding agreements and fossil fuel phase-out; and intergenerational and intersectional perspectives approached with openness, inclusion and respect.
- Mr. Balakrishnan noted that owing to underinvestment in local access to knowledge, and institutional, geographic and time barriers, there was a proliferation of commitments

rather than actions. In order to allow the private and public sectors to work better together to address issues of governance and transparency using digital tools and solutions, he called for the public sector to define interoperability standards for digital information systems and for the private sector to use those with a view to avoiding a silo approach.

- Ms. Hickey considered what multilateral development agencies such as the World Bank could do to increase the availability of finance for action towards a healthy planet. She argued that a chain reaction needed to be unleashed through an increase in public finance, transparently sharing technologies and best practice, reducing risk and increasing innovation. Financial institutions needed to put people at the centre of such efforts, co-creating, rather than managing expectations.

## **General discussion**

### **Accelerating finance mobilization**

134. Focusing on the economic aspects of sustainable development, speakers representing Member States and other participants highlighted the need to target international finance to low- and middle-income countries to develop and implement green industrial strategies. That included the implementation of circular economy solutions and enabling policymaking that enhanced public funding towards innovation and co-development for technology.

135. Simplifying access to finance also featured strongly during the leadership dialogue. Harmonized funding requirements across different international funding resources and better alignment of public and private finance with the principles embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals were suggested, with some speakers mentioning the need to share knowledge on ways in which to reduce transaction costs. While acknowledging the importance of balancing private and public sector investment, however, other speakers noted that using private sector investment for public goals would not necessarily work in every context and they therefore called for the international system to address where and how to tackle vulnerability.

136. The question of repurposing, reforming and realigning subsidies that were harmful to the environment was also highlighted by many speakers, as such subsidies worked against greening society. Repurposing, reforming and realigning subsidies had to start with compensation and safety nets for those who were most vulnerable and most affected. Citing the Copenhagen Accord as an example, a number of speakers noted that the existing finance gap in existing commitments had to be bridged if environmental action was to catch up with aspirations and hopes. Calls were also made to acknowledge the risks that the continued encouragement of fossil fuel use posed to the environment and for future generations, and for a just, equitable and gradual transition towards more environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives.

137. At the national level, speakers representing Member States and other participants called for Governments to adopt green or sustainable budgeting approaches and prioritize the leveraging of domestic resources to improve the resilience of developing and least-developed countries, approaches which would underpin their sustainable development efforts in the longer term. Examples of National approaches mentioned by speakers included sustainable public procurement to underpin green market creation and support local ecosystems of green product and service providers; fair and effective tax systems with improved financial disclosure; effective valuation of ecosystem services; and investment in natural assets and soils to protect agrifood systems.

138. Speakers underlined the need for humility in implementing financing solutions. People, especially the poor, needed to be at the centre of financial streams to build trust. Strong calls were made for co-developing expectations and demonstrating proven action and delivery, as opposed to simply continuing to engage in planning and entering into new commitments on existing lines.

### **Accelerating inclusive, coherent and agile governance**

139. Stockholm+50 was seen by many speakers as a significant milestone that should be marked by factoring the value that nature brings to our lives and socioeconomic progress into our policymaking and economies. Rethinking the fundamentals of what we value, revaluing them and redefining the timescale in which results need to be achieved were all recurring messages in leadership dialogue 3.

140. It was also seen as incumbent on Member States and stakeholders to expand their understanding of the importance of nature and bring back into current policy processes what modernity had excluded. Closer links needed to be established between modern science and other forms and systems of and approaches to knowledge, for their mutual enrichment and benefit. There were calls for a constructive intercultural debate, to help to find ways of better linking modern science

to the broader knowledge heritage of humankind to find a different way of being and a different way of acting, including a different value system that could help to make the world a better place. The need to recognize the rights of nature and integrate the voices of indigenous populations into all governance processes was also highlighted.

141. Several speakers representing Member States and other participants noted that the planet belongs not only to the present generation, but also to future generations, and that decisions made today should be taken with options and outcomes for the future in mind. Governance models incorporating generational impact assessments were called for, as was the scaling-up of access to affordable, quality universal education and the integration of sustainable development considerations into school curricula, creating a public good that constituted an investment for the future.

142. Speakers also highlighted the global application of the human right to a healthy and safe environment as a priority action to accelerate inclusive, coherent and agile governance. Suggestions were made for robust policy enforcement and implementation in that regard, for financing and capacity-building for institutions working to protect the environment, and for a legal mechanism to protect environmental defenders.

143. A significant number of panellists and other speakers noted that technology needed to be harnessed more effectively: ideally, that would start with changing the upstream selection environment for innovation, which had a cumulative impact on technological development, and common sustainability standards and principles should be applied to guide innovation. Recommendations were made to replace ineffective technology transfer mechanisms with technology co-development and co-ownership, particularly in areas of clean energy, health and sustainable agriculture, so that least developed countries in particular, but also developing countries, would have a voice in the governance of emerging technologies. It was posited that that model was crucial when technology had potential negative spillover or could cause harm to other countries.

144. Many speakers stressed that digital systems were a key part of accelerating the co-development and transfer of knowledge, as well as for consolidating the knowledge and understanding of, among other things, plans, commitments, actions and results across the globe.

145. Lastly, calls were made for supply chains to be improved for both humans and the environment, so that integrated supply chains bridge the technological and economic gap between developed and developing economies. Requests were made to national Governments and international organizations to consider – in a fair and equitable manner, based on common but differentiated responsibilities – binding due diligence requirements and greater harmonization, with the aim of bridging, not widening, the technology divide. Speakers also noted that Governments should have a better recognition of the impact that their consumption and production patterns have on other countries and should include a spillover analysis when they measure their performance and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Accelerating effective multilateralism and strengthened partnerships**

146. The panellists and speakers acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic had presented itself as an opportunity for many to reconsider their way of living, with the innovation of much-needed digital solutions. International collaboration was key to a greener future for all, paired with strong multilateralism, especially in terms of accountability within and between countries. They also noted that developing countries needed to be supported so that all countries could prepare for a globally resilient future.

147. That said, many speakers representing Member States and other participants expressed their concern with regard to the proliferation of international commitments that had not been accompanied by sufficient action. Some noted that there were already many conventions, treaties and mechanisms in existence relating to global environmental action, and that efforts should be directed towards reviving and delivering results through mechanisms that had already been agreed upon. Others noted that a legal accountability framework set up by the United Nations would be useful to hold Governments and other relevant actors accountable for the pledges and promises that they made. A number of speakers stressed the fact that the focus should be on collective action to achieve the 2030 Agenda, not on making promises beyond it.

148. Speakers noted that multilateralism as a form of inclusive governance could not emerge without there having been a shift in the ineffective and one-sided status quo of technology capacity. Many underlined the fact that a sustainable future would need to build upon the principles of justice and equity and take into consideration the respective capabilities of all countries and the historical responsibilities associated with climate change, in combination with the principle of “leaving no one

behind". It was vital that deep-seated inequalities were addressed and environmental protection and economic growth were mutually supportive. To that end, calls were made for all actors to urgently combat inequality within and between nations as an essential step towards addressing environmental and development crises. Requests were also made to intergovernmental organizations to accelerate effective multilateralism and improve the access by and involvement of youth and generate strong partnerships with local communities to empower them in the implementation of global policy at the local level, depending on context and in accordance with national laws and policies.

149. In addition, speakers urged all actors to strengthen existing and create new broad-based partnerships, including international partnerships, initiatives and alliances, to support countries in developing synergistic solutions to address environmental and economic crises. Areas that were mentioned during the dialogue included making the international trading system greener; accessing clean and green energy; sharing knowledge and common opportunities for the circular economy and sustainable consumption and production; and sustainable mineral management.

**Summary points of leadership dialogue 3:** Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

1. Access to and the quality and quantity of finance available to developing countries, especially least developed countries, for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals needs to be improved.
2. Mitigation and adaptation action is essential to ensure a balanced, equitable transition, the rights of States and people for development, and gender parity.
3. The finance gap must be bridged to allow environmental action to catch up with aspirations and hopes.
4. Well-designed government action, including green and sustainable budgeting, is needed to start realigning and redirecting environmentally harmful subsidies.
5. Coordination of sovereign debt relief, debt guarantees and the pooling of debt risk in the context of climate financing is needed.
6. Scaled-up access to quality, affordable education and for the promotion of environmentally conscious syllabuses and curricula is urgently required.
7. Cooperation by all actors is essential to accelerate the transfer of knowledge, technology and know-how, and to scale up the availability and access to and affordability of digital goods and services and critical infrastructure in developing countries.
8. All actors should work together to combat inequality within and between nations as an essential step towards addressing environmental and development crises.
9. Existing processes and mechanisms for financing adaptation and sustainable transition in developing countries need to be reinvigorated, with efforts directed at reviving them, rather than establishing new processes and mechanisms.
10. Collective international action is essential to ensure that environmental purposes do not become or are not used as trade barriers or to hamper developmental processes.

#### IV. Report of the Credentials Committee

150. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, the international meeting considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.238/8).

151. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Anna Karin Eneström (Sweden), made a statement, in the course of which she introduced the report of the Credentials Committee and recommended to the international meeting the adoption of a draft resolution concerning the credentials of representatives to the international meeting, contained in paragraph 16 of the report of the Committee.

152. Also at the same meeting, the international meeting adopted the draft resolution and accepted the additional credentials referred to by the Chair of the Credentials Committee.



## V. Outcome of the international meeting

153. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, the international meeting considered item 9, “Outcome of the international meeting”.

154. At the same meeting, the Co-Chair of leadership dialogue 1 on the theme “Reflecting on the urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all”, Mr. Miranda, made a statement, in the course of which he presented a summary of leadership dialogue 1, which is also set out in part III of the present report.

155. At the same meeting, the Co-Chair of leadership dialogue 2 on the theme “Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”, Mr. Tharyat, made a statement, in the course of which he presented a summary of leadership dialogue 2, which is also set out in part III of the present report.

156. Also at the same meeting, the Co-Chair of leadership dialogue 3 on the theme “Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, Ms. Fouad, made a statement, in the course of which she presented a summary of leadership dialogue 3, which is also set out in part III of the present report.

157. At the same meeting, the Minister for Climate and the Environment of Sweden, Ms. Annika Strandhäll, and the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry of Kenya, Mr. Tobiko Keriako, in their capacity as ex officio Vice-Presidents of the international meeting, presented a summary of the discussions on behalf of the Presidents of the international meeting, Ms. Magdalena Andersson and Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, which is reproduced below.

### **Summary: recommendations for accelerating action towards a healthy planet for the prosperity of all**

In our capacity as Presidents, the following key recommendations emerged from Member States and stakeholders, through the plenary and leadership dialogues at the Stockholm+50 international meeting.

The recommendations reflect the resolve of the participants to urgently accelerate the implementation of commitments for a healthy planet for the prosperity of all, in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development – including a sustainable recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic – and taking into account the outcomes from the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and from the special session of the Environment Assembly to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi on 3 and 4 March 2022.

Since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, the global community has adopted a wealth of multilateral environmental agreements, as well as other commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. Fulfilment of the objectives and commitments of all those agreements would take us a long way towards securing a healthy planet for all.

Stockholm+50 has emphasized the global interconnectedness of the environment and the need to collectively address the triple crisis of our common environment – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – for present and future generations. Stockholm+50 has also underlined the urgent need for bold and deliberate actions, as well as clear political will to accelerate action on these commitments, strengthen the multilateral system, increase ambition and solidarity, and set us on a credible path towards a healthy planet for all, leaving no one behind.

The discussions during Stockholm+50 reaffirmed the importance of local realities and national implementation, and the need for a combination of incentives and policies, finance and capacity support to achieve sustainable development. We have heard the following recommendations for actions to accelerate implementation:

1. **Place human well-being at the centre of a healthy planet and prosperity for all**, through recognizing that a healthy planet is a prerequisite for peaceful, cohesive and prosperous societies; restoring our relationship with nature by integrating ethical values; and adopting a fundamental change in attitudes, habits and behaviours to support our common prosperity.
2. **Recognize and implement the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**, through fulfilling the vision articulated in principle 1 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration.

3. **Adopt a system-wide change in the way our current economic system works to contribute to a healthy planet**, through defining and adopting new measures of progress and human well-being, supported by economic and fiscal policies that account for the value of the environment; investing in infrastructure, developing effective policy and encouraging a global dialogue to promote sustainable consumption and production; and promoting the phasing-out of fossil fuels while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for financial and technical support towards a just transition.
4. **Strengthen national implementation of existing commitments for a healthy planet**, through enhancing national environmental legislation, budgets, planning processes and institutional frameworks; promoting evidence-based policymaking, including by enhanced collaboration between academic disciplines and thematic scientific panels, drawing on insights and expertise from indigenous and traditional knowledge; and scaling up capacity support and development, access to and financing for environmentally sound technologies.
5. **Align public and private financial flows with environmental, climate and sustainable development commitments**, through developing and implementing well-designed policies to repurpose environmentally harmful subsidies; redirecting, mobilizing and scaling up the availability of public and private financial flows to support economic diversification; and adopting recovery and stimulus measures, blended sources of capital and de-risking instruments that augment financial flows.
6. **Accelerate system-wide transformations of high impact sectors, such as food, energy, water, building and construction, manufacturing and mobility**, through adopting and implementing policies to promote circularity, resource efficiency, regenerative production approaches and nature-based solutions in value chains, and adopting frameworks that enhance and reinforce transparency and accountability by business; promoting just transitions through support for impacted youth, labour and local communities by strengthening capacity and skills for the creation of green jobs and for micro-, small and medium enterprises; and transforming food systems by promoting regenerative farming and fisheries approaches that provide healthy diets and minimize food waste, including investments in the ocean economy.
7. **Rebuild relationships of trust for strengthened cooperation and solidarity**, through recognizing the importance of developed country leadership in promoting sustainability transitions; supporting capacity-building and technology transfer for national efforts by developing countries to implement internationally agreed environmental agreements, taking into account national circumstances, including honouring the commitment to mobilize \$100 billion every year for climate finance for developing countries; and enabling all relevant stakeholders, including youth, women, rural communities, indigenous peoples, interfaith groups and local communities, to participate meaningfully in policy formulation and implementation at both the national and international levels.
8. **Reinforce and reinvigorate the multilateral system**, through ensuring an effective rules-based multilateral system that supports countries in delivering on their national and global commitments, to ensure fair and effective multilateralism; strengthening the environmental rule of law, including by promoting convergence and synergies within the United Nations system and between multilateral environmental agreements; and strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme, in line with the UNEP@50 political declaration.
9. **Recognize intergenerational responsibility as a cornerstone of sound policymaking**, through engaging with the Stockholm+50 Global Youth Task Force and its policy paper; highlighting the important need to build the capacity of young people to engage with financial institutions; recognizing the critical role of young people in environmental action, highlighting the fact that progress has been made in fostering the meaningful engagement of youth, and calling upon multilateral environmental funds to include youth-inclusive parameters in their funding schemes and take further steps to ensure ease of access to funds for environmental action by youth-led organizations.
10. **Take the Stockholm+50 outcomes forward** through reinforcing and reenergizing the ongoing international processes, including a global framework for biodiversity, an implementing agreement for the protection of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction and the development of a new plastics convention; and engaging with relevant conferences, such as the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Summit of the Future.

158. The summary of the Presidents of the international meeting has been published on the Stockholm+50 website.

## **VI. Adoption of the report of the international meeting**

159. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, the Vice-President (Kenya) of the international meeting, Mr. Keriako, made a statement, in the course of which he introduced the draft report of the international meeting, contained in document A/CONF.238/L.1.

160. At the same meeting, the international meeting adopted the draft report and authorized the secretariat of the international meeting to finalize the report, in conformity with United Nations practice.

## **VII. Closure of the international meeting**

161. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 3 June 2022, closing statements were made by the Secretary-General of the international meeting, Ms. Andersen, and the Vice-Presidents of the international meeting, Mr. Keriako and Ms. Strandhäll.

162. At the same meeting, the Vice-President (Sweden) declared the international meeting “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” closed at 7 p.m. on 3 June 2022.

## Annex

### List of documents

A/CONF.238/1	Provisional agenda
A/CONF.238/2	Organizational and procedural matters
A/CONF.238/3	Concept note
A/CONF.238/4	Background paper for leadership dialogue 1: reflecting on the urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all
A/CONF.238/5	Background paper for leadership dialogue 2: achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
A/CONF.238/6	Background paper for leadership dialogue 3: accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development
A/CONF.238/7	Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session
A/CONF.238/8	Report of the Credentials Committee
A/CONF.238/9	Report of the international meeting
A/CONF.238/L.1	Draft report of the international meeting
A/CONF.238/INF/1	Information note for participants
A/CONF.238/INF/2	List of participants
A/CONF.238/INF/3	Summary of stakeholder contributions

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