

Global Business and Biodiversity Forum at UN Biodiversity Conference 2018

Leaders' Breakfast: Innovative Solutions to Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Key Economic Sectors

15 November 2018

8:00 am – 9:30 am, Sharm El Sheikh International Congress Center (SHICC)

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Background

The UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 (14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity) will take place from 17-29 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Among the key items on the agenda of the Conference is the mainstreaming of biodiversity into key economic sectors; including energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing. In this context, the High-level Segment of the Conference, to take place on 14-15 November, will focus on the theme of "Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet". The High-level Segment will address such mainstreaming for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In parallel to the High-level Segment, a two-day Global Forum on Business and Biodiversity will also take place to consider the role of business in the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the above-mentioned sectors.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors, mentioned above, is critically important since these sectors have a significant impact on ecosystem functions, services and other resources provided by nature. Biodiversity contributes to the global and local economy and to our human development in different ways, therefore it is important to fully recognize the multiple values of nature to society. By protecting and restoring ecosystems as well as sustainably using biodiversity, significant economic opportunities can be unlocked. The potential shifts in our economic models, with nature focused perspectives, are critical components of a circular economy and natural capital approaches.

Objective of Leaders' Breakfast

The Leaders' Breakfast will take place the morning of 15 November 2018, before the High level Segment and the Global Forum on Business and Biodiversity. Its focus is on innovative solutions for mainstreaming of biodiversity into energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing. The aim of the Breakfast is to reinforce the message of the Business and Biodiversity Forum, with a view to inform the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 and the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (11 -15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya). The UN Environment Assembly is the highest-level decision-making body on the environment within the UN system. The Assembly will be held under the theme of: "Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production".

Designed to encourage open and lively discussions, the Leaders' Breakfast will provide a unique opportunity for Ministers, senior policy makers as well as a select group of leaders from the private sector and non-governmental entities to exchange experiences and good practices in incorporating ecosystem and biodiversity considerations in business models and operations, through innovative, collaborative, and scalable approaches.

Structure of the Breakfast

The Breakfast will be opened by H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt, followed by remarks from H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, President of UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of Estonia, Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment and Dr. Cristiana Paşca-Palmer, Executive Secretary of Convention on Biological Diversity.

The facilitator of the Breakfast will then open the floor for discussion, asking invited participants to share insights on innovative solutions for mainstreaming of biodiversity into the economic sectors that are under discussion at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The facilitator will close the meeting by highlighting key takeaway messages.

The Breakfast is by invitation-only and will create a setting for participants to address issues of common concern in a frank and stimulating discussion in order to reinforce the messages from the Business and Biodiversity Forum to UN Biodiversity Conference 2018.

Expected outcomes

- The key takeaway messages of the Leaders' Breakfast will feed into the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 as well as the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly, which will take place in March 2019
- Joint UN Environment / Convention on Biological Diversity Press release

Facilitator: Jorge Laguna-Celis, Director, Governance Affairs Office, UN Environment

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Agenda -15 November

8.00 – 8.15	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt• H.E. Mr. Siim Valmar Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of Estonia• Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment• Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of Convention on Biological Diversity
8.15 – 8.30	Opening reflections: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private sector representative (TBD)
8.30 – 9.25	Facilitated open discussion to identify innovative solutions to mainstream biodiversity into manufacturing and extractives
9.25 – 9.30	Conclusions and takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jorge Laguna-Celis, Director, Governance Affairs Office, UN Environment