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Report of the Webinar “Building Back Better: Protecting Biodiversity, Combating Land Degradation and Mitigating Climate Change to Reduce the Risks of Future Pandemics, and the Importance of a Coherent Approach” (10 September 2020, 15:00 - 17:00 (GMT+2))

**10 September 2020, 15:00 - 17:00 (GMT+2)**

# Introduction

1. The Government of Egypt, within the framework of its Presidency of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, organized a webinar on protecting biodiversity, combating land degradation and mitigating climate change to reduce the risks of future pandemics jointly with the Secretariat of the Convention. The webinar was held on 10 September 2020 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (GMT +2). This webinar was also organized as part of the initiative by Egypt to promote a coherent approach for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation.
2. In the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the increasingly clear connection between the degradation of ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity and its unsustainable use and the increased the risk of disease spillover from wildlife to livestock and from animals to people, the webinar aimed to highlight the links between the health of the planet and the health of people and explored how the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, combating land degradation, and fighting climate change help to reduce the risks of future pandemics as part of an inclusive and comprehensive “One Health” approach.
3. The webinar, attended by over 500 participants from all parts of the world, was chaired by Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt and moderated by Mr. David Ainsworth, Public Information Officer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Video messages were provided by Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, Host Government of CBD COP 15, Mr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director‑General of the World Health Organization, and Mr. Bruno Oberle, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Remarks were delivered by Mr. Jigmet Takpa on behalf of the Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change of India and Representative of the Presidency of UNCCD COP 14, Mr. Andrés Landerretche on behalf of the Minister of Environment of Chile and UNFCCC COP 25 Presidency Coordinator. Contributions were also made by the executive secretaries of the conventions on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, as well as experts from relevant United Nations agencies. The full agenda is contained in annex I below.
4. A recording of the webinar has been made available on the YouTube channel of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is accessible at: <https://youtu.be/RBJlWEET8Cw>.

# Opening of the Webinar

1. On behalf of the Government of Egypt, Ms. Yasmine Fouad delivered opening remarks. She welcomed the participants to the webinar and thanked them for their participation during a very critical time. She began by emphasizing that, if the world intended to “build back better”, there was a strong need to look for solutions from more than one angle. She noted that during the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties and stakeholders had agreed that a balanced and ambitious post-2020 global framework was needed; however, one important factor that was missing was the need to stop de-linking the issues of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. Humans needed and depended on land and sea ecosystems, on animals, and therefore could not separate the issues. She stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic had had major impacts on worldwide efforts on health, environment and sustainable development, with an expected cost of $9 trillion. She highlighted the lesson that the global pandemic had taught the world: that it needed to live in harmony with nature and that nature did not need humans. From this perspective, she emphasized the importance of working collectively and with one voice, to begin thinking how best to mobilize efforts and financial resources, and how best to harmonize policies. She noted that the One Health approach could be an entry point. In closing, she reminded participants of the Global Initiative that Egypt had launched at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which called for a synergetic approach to link the issues of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation in order to efficiently use resources and efforts, identify gaps and reduce the risks of future pandemics. She invited the speakers to discuss this and how it was key to an inclusive and comprehensive “One Health” approach.
2. Following the opening remarks of Ms. Fouad, a video message from the Minister of Environment and Ecology of China, Mr. Huang Runqiu, was presented. In his video message, Mr. Runqiu began by reminding participants that biodiversity is the lifeblood and foundation for the survival and development of mankind, and that the pandemic has prompted the international community to rethink the relationship between nature and man. He noted that the loss of biodiversity made humanity more vulnerable and therefore leveraging full nature-based solutions and the One Health approach helped forge synergies to address issues such as climate change, public health, natural disasters, and poverty. He highlighted the fact that China promoted the idea of ecological civilization in pursuit of a future in which nature and humans coexisted in harmony. He informed participants that China had made great national efforts in the conservation and protection of biodiversity, as well as efforts to reduce its carbon emission and achieve its nationally determined contributions. He noted that the experience of China demonstrated that strengthened synergies in the implementation of different environmental conventions could help address many challenges at once and stressed the importance of establishing sound international coordination and cooperation to face global challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change and land desertification. He thanked the international community for its support in preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which China would be hosting, and added that China looked forward to working with all Parties to develop and adopt an ambitious and pragmatic post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Finally, he made a call for Parties to mobilize political support at the highest level, and invited stakeholders to actively engage in the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.
3. Mr. Jigmet Takpa, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change of India, then delivered a message on behalf the Minister, Mr. Prakash Javadekar, representing the Presidency of UNCCD COP 14. He began by thanking and congratulating Ms. Fouad for organizing the important discussion. He noted that the current global situation had nudged all the countries of the world to work together on various multilateral environmental agreements in a collaborative and cooperative manner. He noted that the collective approach of protection and conservation of the environment was the basis for a healthier and greener planet and that taking concerted action around land degradation would benefit efforts against climate change and biodiversity loss. He informed participants that India had committed to land degradation neutrality by restoring 26 million hectares of land by 2030. He concluded by stating that humanity had a long history of living in harmony with nature, and it was now necessary for humanity to return to synchronicity with its surroundings in order to move on to a sustainable path.
4. Mr. Andrés Landerretche, representing Ms. Carolina Schmidt, Minister of Environment of Chile and Coordinator of the UNFCCC COP 25 Presidency of Chile, followed with opening remarks. He began by congratulating Ms. Fouad and the Secretariat for organizing the timely webinar. Noting that the pace of change over the last 50 years had been unprecedented, with populations doubling and the global economy expanding four-fold, this remarkable growth and prosperity has come at a heavy cost to the natural system that underpins life on Earth. He stressed that business as usual was no longer an option and that calling for a radical reset was critical. There was a need for a new mechanism of public-private collaboration and non‑traditional flows of finance to secure a net zero emissions wall by 2050. He noted that a fundamental shift in the thinking of the value of nature, including accounting for natural capital and the cost of ecosystem degradation, was necessary and that, although the solutions to nature loss were complex, we must take transformative action urgently. He noted that the COVID-19 crisis had been one of the worst crises in recent history and that, although the short-term priority of governments had been the health of citizens, it was also necessary to deliver plans to recover the economy and jobs in the context of another global crisis that had not been in quarantine: climate change. He also noted that updating nationally determined contributions was not necessarily a distraction from the pandemic but that updated nationally determined contributions could be a blueprint that could guide us to a truly sustainable economy. In that spirit, Chile had presented a significantly enhanced nationally determined contribution that targeted a long-term vision of carbon neutrality by 2050. He concluded by stating that there was a daunting challenge ahead but also a unique opportunity to use the crisis to accelerate the transformation needed to a cleaner and healthier economy.
5. PANEL DISCUSSION 1: HOW THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY, COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION, AND FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE CAN HELP TO BUILD BACK BETTER AND REDUCE THE RISKS OF FUTURE PANDEMICS
6. After thanking all the representatives of the presidencies for their opening remarks and setting the stage, the moderator opened the first panel discussion of the webinar. He indicated that, in this panel session, the audience would hear from the three executive secretaries of the Rio conventions, as well as the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, speaking on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and the CEO of the Global Environment Facility. All panellists began by thanking and appreciating the leadership of Ms. Fouad for organizing the webinar discussion.
7. The moderator began by inviting Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to open the discussion. Ms. Espinosa noted that, although each convention represents three different issues, they all share one goal, which is to help build a green, clean, healthy and sustainable world. That had been the original idea in Rio when the conventions had been created. She noted that, while there was a division of labour for each convention, implicit was the idea that the issues would naturally coincide and would grow stronger in the future. She emphasized that, currently, as the Earth faced challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, it was more important than ever to align the efforts and to underline the words of collaboration with action. The moment at hand represented an opportunity to take action and build a better narrative so that civil society and people in general could understand how climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation were connected. She concluded that, although some progress had been made, there was room for further improvement, and that was the way to build a greener and healthier future for all.
8. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, began by highlighting the complexity of the relationship between biodiversity and infectious diseases. She noted that by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, while sharing the benefits with equity, the world could prevent the emergence of future diseases. The efforts to build back better, could be integrated with the One Health approach, and address the challenges of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. She suggested five main elements. First, she noted that disease risk should be reduced by conserving and restoring ecosystems. Second, she suggested that sustainable, legal and safe use of wildlife should be promoted in order to have an immediate impact not only on disease transmission resulting from the illegal trade in wildlife, but also to help rebuild livelihoods. Third, she suggested that sustainable and safe agriculture, including crop and livestock production and aquaculture, needed to be promoted. Fourth, she said that the urban setting needed to be examined with a view to creating healthy cities and landscapes that integrate biodiversity while supporting sustainable consumption. Finally, she noted the need to promote healthy diets as a component of sustainable consumption. She emphasized that, as the world moved forward on those elements, it was necessary to build cooperation and complementarity among all actors and relevant instruments, including other multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations. She concluded by indicating that the negotiation of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that would support transformative change would be the basis for a fundamental shift in political economy, accountability and governance, and would represent the realization of the opportunity to build back better.
9. The moderator then introduced Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Mr. Thiaw began by noting that the pandemic had created many uncertainties, but the general consensus was that it was now known how vulnerable all species are and how much humans depend on nature. It could be agreed, he said, that the root causes of most global crises, including global warming, pandemics, biodiversity loss and climate change, came from the overexploitation and abuse of nature. He noted that unsustainable food production, growing greenhouse gas emissions and choices that drive land use change and habitat loss certainly exacerbated the problems and that the public was now becoming aware of the connections. The three Rio conventions were employing joint messaging and advocacy on how to act on carbon, species, soil and water. He noted that building back better called for a reset and a transformational change. Such a change meant doing things very differently, from individual decisions that built new social norms to legal and policy reforms that would enable people to grow and prosper in a safe operating environment. He emphasized that, from the point of view of UNCCD, land degradation and land conversion were among the most significant problems driving many of the global environmental challenges, and that land restoration was key in creating new local livelihoods and investment opportunities. He concluded by strongly encouraging governments to employ recovery measures to pivot towards sustainability and set a long-term trajectory for positive carbon neutral development.
10. Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands, spoke on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions. She began by noting that the components of the natural world were intricately connected to each other and with people, and that one lesson learned from the pandemic was that human, animal and plant health are connected and interdependent. She also noted that the growing human pressure on the natural world increased the risk of zoonotic diseases and that the responses to the pandemic provided unique opportunities for transformative change. In that regard, it was important to leverage the work of the biodiversity-related conventions as they made essential contributions to many environmental aspects, as well social, cultural and economic well-being and human health. They also contributed to green growth and sustainable jobs and livelihoods. She noted that, while each convention had its role and objectives, Parties needed to continue working together to rise to the challenge and that there was strength in working together to address the respective but related priorities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. She concluded by stressing the importance of increasing the commitment to increase the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions as part of an integrated and holistic approach to address biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation, and to building back better.
11. Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO of the Global Environment Facility, began by indicating the key role of ministers of health in the context of building back. He stated that, more than ever before, the interlinkages between human activities and nature had been able to recognize the fragility and vulnerability of humans. He noted that, in order to build back society, it was necessary to redefine human values and principles in the context of the broken relationship between nature and humans. He stated that, if ministers of health could include in their agenda the key issues they had been pushing for the preceding decade, and if the health and sanitary community could be brought on board, there might be a significant opportunity to move forward in terms of the shared goals and aspirations. He further noted that, in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, there were two elements that were a clear outcome of the pandemic: (a) that people now believed science more than ever; and (b) that the cost-benefit relationship associated with protecting nature was very clear, and restoration and conservation had become a very strong political driver. He concluded by highlighting that it was necessary to place nature at the centre of the recovery plans, but that that had not been mainstreamed in the wider economic community. As many countries were struggling, politicians were only focusing on the short term to recover. He noted that the Global Environment Facility was in a unique position to support countries and work across all sectors and conventions to achieve those benefits.
12. Thanking all the panellists for their contributions, the moderator indicated that, due to time constraints, he would attempt to synthesize the many questions posed by the public and have each panellist make a quick response. He noted that many of the questions revolved around forests as some of the large ecosystems that provided support and that had a role in land degradation and the climate agenda. As a general question to all panellists, he asked, with reference to the green recovery that would follow the pandemic, what were the specific aspects of forest management and how could they be managed and linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
13. The panellists generally agreed that forests were at the heart of the green recovery from COVID-19 and of green development. The forestry sector provided essential services and products to support the health and livelihoods of many local communities and even cities. The panellists emphasized that forests created jobs and built resilience against future pandemics, mitigated climate change and continued to play a key role in achieving a balance between emissions and removal of greenhouse gases. Forests were the unifying factor across all three conventions, and panellists emphasized that forests, more than just trees, included water, fish and animals and represented the lungs of the planet. Panellists also noted the different types of forests and how some, such as mangroves and peatlands, stored more carbon than any other forest. Finally, attention was drawn to the fact that, currently, land conversion of forests was still a large problem due to the lack of economic incentives to keep forests over other soil uses, which had represented a massive market failure for the preceding 15 years. They stressed the need to agree on a global mechanism that would establish a market for carbon, forest credits and benefits and that the forthcoming fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties presented an opportunity to do that.
14. **Panel discussion 2: Implementation as the key to an inclusive and comprehensive “One Health” approach**
15. Building on the previous discussion, the moderator introduced the second panel, which he noted was composed of the leaders of various United Nations organizations and international organizations. He invited them to delve into a discussion on implementation as key to an inclusive and comprehensive “One Health” approach. All the panellists began their interventions by thanking and congratulating Ms. Fouad for her leadership in convening the discussion.
16. Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, began by highlighting the massive increase in the human population over the years, and the improvement of the human species in terms of health and wealth, which she said had led to behavioural shifts in which humanity was more wasteful, needed more, and accelerated exploitation and fragmentation, leading to all the environmental, and now health, challenges that it faced. One of the factors that bore repeating was that diseases came from nature and humans were responsible for the pressure they generated on ecosystems, causing epidemic after epidemic. The difference had been that COVID-19 had shown itself to be the most efficient at spreading. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic, although it had been quite impactful, had not had a high mortality rate in comparison with other diseases. However, it remained a wake-up call that humanity needed to take care of biodiversity and nature. She also said that the overuse of antibiotics was quite concerning, as they were contained in consumer products and waterways, and they created resistance. She concluded with a reflection on how society could use the recovery efforts to ensure shifts in many human activities, such as agricultural production. She asked what kind of incentives could be put in place in order to improve the management of food production, waste and chemicals.
17. A video message from Mr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, was then played for the participants. In his video message, Mr. Ghebreyesus emphasized that no other event in recent history had connected people, animals and nature as much as the COVID-19 pandemic had done. He noted that about two thirds of infectious diseases originated from wild and domesticated animals and that about 25 per cent of the global disease burden was due to preventable environmental factors. He also noted that relentless intensification of production damaged the planet, sacrificed its biodiversity and created lasting damage for the climate. That also threatened the health and security of communities everywhere, especially the poor and marginalized. The pandemic, he said, had demonstrated that governments needed to strengthen their capacity for prevention and preparedness and response, and, to prevent future risks, it was necessary to go further upstream than early detection. He said that it was necessary to come together across sectoral boundaries and adapt to an inclusive One Health approach for people, animals and the environment. He also said that World Health Organization had released a manifesto for a healthy and green recovery with the protection of nature as the first of six essential prescriptions. He concluded by urging all those involved in the preparation of the next global biodiversity framework to apply the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic for a healthier, greener and more equitable future.
18. Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, reminded participants of the harsh reality that the world would face in the next couple of years, which was that many people did not wish to understand what “One Health” is or what the nexus between human health and planetary health is. He noted that, on the basis of the current agitated political reality around the world, with societies trying to provide perspective and direction, it would be necessary to be more than just advocates for nature. He noted that science was not enough to sway a public uninterested in the issue or preoccupied with other issues, and, even though the latest reports showed shocking numbers, there had been no success in triggering the kind of paradigm shift needed, even more so in the midst of a pandemic. He emphasized that societies would have to make short-term choices and long-term bets and try to build back better and not return to the old normal. However, he reflected on how to make biodiversity and nature the ecological infrastructure an integral part of a vision of recovery. There was a need to design and demonstrate interventions and initiatives that would not only transform the future of biodiversity conservation and restoration, but that were linked to people’s livelihoods. He noted the necessity of connecting the narratives in the midst of a pandemic and helping national Governments and their citizens to make priority choices and embrace the notion of a green economy. He concluded by reminding participants that the challenge was not about the next brilliant articulation of how biodiversity was being lost, but about how the economies creating that kind of destruction were going to be changed.
19. Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, spoke on behalf of the Director-General, Mr. Qu Dongyu. She began by noting that, in order to address the important driver of disease emergence, it was necessary to halt the loss of biodiversity and mainstream biodiversity across all sectors and landscapes. She noted that food systems depended on the way in which biodiversity was preserved, and the future of biodiversity depended on how food systems were managed. The erosion of biodiversity was worrisome in view of the persistent hyperbalance of food insecurity in many parts of the world. She noted that agriculture held the key to bringing all actors together. She emphasized that, although it was not an easy task, the current pandemic had underlined the urgency of adopting a cross-cutting approach and bringing an end to thinking in silos. It was necessary to work at all levels and to strengthen complementarities and interlinkages. She said that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was driving a strategy of mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and it was working to tackle the complex and interrelated issues of associating wildlife habitat disruption with biodiversity loss and the spread of zoonotic diseases. She concluded by noting that the transformation of mainstreaming biodiversity across the agricultural sector and the prevention of new disease outbreaks would not happen without farmers, fishers, livestock keepers and forests, and without consumers, governments and strategic partnerships. Therefore, it was necessary to recognize that they were all interconnected and interdependent.
20. Finally, a video message from Mr. Bruno Oberle, Director General of the IUCN, was played for the participants. In his message, Mr. Oberle said that IUCN had recognized for decades that human health was intricately connected to the health of the natural world. He noted that, with the help of nature-based solutions, it would be possible to address societal challenges while benefiting both nature and people. Nature-based solutions protected the complexity of the natural environment, which reduced the risk of future pandemics, and could address the climate and biodiversity crises. He noted that both the One Health approach and the nature-based solutions built on the same scientific and philosophical foundation, and shared multidisciplinary problem solving, systems-based understanding and analysis and stakeholder inclusion. He provided the example of New Zealand, which had allocated $NZ 1 billion dollars for the creation of 11,000 jobs to invest in nature. He said that IUCN was proud to support governments, businesses and stakeholders in implementing the One Health approach with its Global Standard for Nature-Based Solutions, launched two months before. He also said that that standard would provide a globally consistent approach to implementing nature-based solutions and measuring their success and benefit. He concluded by saying that IUCN was pleased to assist in that journey and to ensure healthy nature for healthy people.
21. The moderator then invited the representative of the World Health Organization, Ms. Maria Neira, Director of the Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health Department, to share with the public a few reflections on what had been discussed in the panel. She began by noting that one of the very clear messages from the discussion was that there was no disagreement, and all were well aligned technically and scientifically. She said that it was a very important time for the United Nations family, which had been assembling all the arguments and making the connections and linkages. She emphasized that, at this extraordinary time, when the world was facing a terrible economic recession and when the capacity of citizens to absorb negative news was very low, the question at hand was how to prove that the organization was extremely relevant and how to provide the right direction. She said that the time to act was now as governments were already starting to allocate money for recovery packages, but that needed to be cast in a positive manner so that society could receive it well.
22. The representative of IUCN, Ms. Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director for the Policy and Programme Group, gave some final reflections on the conversation. She noted the convergence of the points made by the panellists; she also noted that, looking at the intersection between nature and people from different entry points, it had been realized with the pandemic that the old debate of nature versus development no longer applied. She emphasized that IUCN was very well invested in the conservation of nature and was pleased to work with all stakeholders in that regard. She noted that, with the Global Standard on Nature‑Based Solutions, there was a way to provide a basis of comparison for people. In that sense, she concluded that the health agenda aligned with those efforts, which were meant to be a contribution to what nature had to offer as solutions to healthy societies.
23. **Summary and closing**
24. Ms. Yasmine Fouad took the floor to offer some final reflections and comments on the webinar. She began by thanking all the distinguished panellists for their valuable contributions and discussion. She said that she did not want to see this time as a drawback but an opportunity. She highlighted two things that the Government of Egypt was doing as part of the green recovery and building back better: mainstreaming sustainability measures within investment plans and doing so jointly with the Planning Ministry; and the announcement of the new green bonds of the Ministry of Finance. She explained that, without the proper tools, countries would not be able to implement or green their own finance in the recovery road. She noted that a first thing to do was to focus on the exact means of implementation and how United Nations agencies could support countries in that regard. Second, she suggested that a joint statement should be sent by all three Rio conventions to the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, which would soon take place, calling for a One Health approach and for a wake-up call that, without a healthy nature, the health of humans would be compromised. Finally, she noted that all the discussion on policy and how to build back better should include youth and the future generation, as they could be the catalysts of the recovery process. She concluded by thanking all the panellists once again for their time and contributions.
25. The moderator thanked the audience and panellists for their participation and closed the webinar session.

*Annex*

**Programme**

**Webinar Conference:**

**“Building Back Better: Protecting Biodiversity, Combating Land Degradation and Mitigating Climate Change to Reduce the Risks of Future Pandemics, and the Importance of a Coherent Approach”**

10 September 2020, 15:00 - 17:00 (GMT+2)

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| 15:00-15:20 | **Scene Setting: Healthy Ecosystems and Healthy Planet, a Political Choice for a Coherent Approach***Opening and Introductory Statement:** H.E. Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt, President of CBD COP 14

*Interventions by COP Presidencies:** H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, Host Government of CBD COP 15 (recorded statement)
* Mr. Jigmet Takpa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change of India and Representative of the Presidency of UNCCD COP 14
* Mr. Andrés Landerretche, Coordinator of UNFCCC COP 25 Presidency of Chile
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| 15:20-16:00 | **Panel discussion 1: How the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, combating land degradation, and fighting climate change can help to build back better and reduce the risks of future pandemics*** Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
* Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
* Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
* Ms. Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General, Convention on Wetlands, on behalf of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions
* Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO, Global Environment Facility

*Q&A and discussion* |
| 16:00-16:40 | **Panel discussion 2: Implementation as the key to an inclusive and comprehensive “One Health” approach*** Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme
* Mr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (recorded statement)
* Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
* Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
* Mr. Bruno Oberle, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (recorded statement)

*Q&A and general discussion with panellists, including:** Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health Department, World Health Organization
* Ms. Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director for the Policy and Programme Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature
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| 16:40-17:00 | **Summary and closing remarks:** H.E. Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt |

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