



# UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly  
of the United Nations Environment Programme

Delivering on the 2030 Agenda



# Geneva Preparations for the Second Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly

Monday 4 April 2016  
from 13:00 to 16:45

International Environment House II  
7-9 chemin de Balxert

**REGISTRATION:** [www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=en/unea2-briefing](http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=en/unea2-briefing)



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# The United Nations Environment Assembly

The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) will take place at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under the overarching theme of Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, from 23-27 May 2016. The Assembly, which represents the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will culminate in resolutions and a global call to action to address the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.

The UN Environment Assembly was established after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 (Rio+20) when it was resolved that UNEP should be strengthened and upgraded and have a new governing body. The Assembly enjoys the greatest participation of such a forum worldwide, with universal membership of all of the 193 UN Member States.

UNEA-2, the second meeting of the governing body, provides the opportunity to build on UNEA-1's success in advancing the global environmental agenda, which produced 17 resolutions, 1 decision, 6 publications and 2 symposia, with the help of its 1,200 participants.

The wide participation of all stakeholders in UNEA2 is an utmost priority for UNEP and the success of UNEA2. It is crucial for effective agenda-setting to include the voices of the world's environmental and sustainable development advocates on the ground in high-level decision-making.

## UNEA-2 areas of interest for International Geneva Community

UNEA-2 will feature a number of high-level events on areas of expertise of International Geneva. A special event to prepare Geneva-based stakeholders to UNEA-2 organized by the Geneva Environment Network, UNEP Regional Office for Europe and UN-NGLS, will take place on Monday 4 April 2016, at the International Environment House II.



## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**13:00-13:15**

Coffee & Tea

**13:15-13:25**

**Welcome and Introduction to UNEA-2**

Jan DUSIK, Director, Regional Office for Europe, UNEP

**13:25-14:00**

**Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda**

UNEA-2 is taking place under the overarching theme, "Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." At high-level plenary meeting to provide direction on the implementation of the **environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda**, environment ministers and other high-level representatives will outline how the environmental community will work to achieve the SDGs. They will also define the role that UNEP will play in supporting nations and peoples to achieve these goals.

Jan DUSIK, Director, Regional Office for Europe, UNEP

Mark HALLE, European Representative, IISD

14:05-14:55

## Healthy Environment, Healthy People

The **Healthy Environment, Healthy People** report, to be launched at the Assembly, will address the nexus between environmental health and public health in light of the 2030 Agenda. A Ministerial Policy-Review Session will gather at UNEA under the overarching theme **Healthy Environment, Healthy People**. At this session, ministers and other high-level officials will identify concrete partnerships, policies and tools that can help to achieve the SDGs in critical areas such as air quality, healthy ecosystems, chemicals and waste.

**Pierre QUIBLIER**, Programme Officer, Chemicals and Waste Branch, UNEP (moderator & introduction of the report)

**Maria NEIRA**, Director, Public Health and the Environment Department, WHO

**Bettina BORISCH**, Head, Geneva Office, World Federation of Public Health Associations

15:00-15:45

## Mobilizing Resources for Sustainable Investments

UNEP has completed in October 2015 a comprehensive, two-year Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System. The actors in this space – many of them in Geneva – are numerous and each holds an essential piece of the puzzle. A Symposium for **Mobilizing Resources for Sustainable Investments** at UNEA-2 will include an overview of the main findings of the Inquiry report. Perhaps the single greatest challenge in the necessary transition to sustainable development lies in harnessing the financial system to the needs of a productive, inclusive and environmentally-responsible economy. This will require reforms to the policies, rules and practices that govern financial and capital markets. This “quiet revolution” is already underway and gaining momentum.

**Hamish JENKINS**, Head, Geneva Office, UN-NGLS (moderator)

**Iain HENDERSON**, Project Manager, G20 Green Finance Study Group, UNEP Inquiry

**Stephanie BLANKENBURG**, Head, Debt & Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD

**Katharina SERAFIMOVA**, Head, Financial sector engagement, WWF International

15:50-16:35

## Environment and displacement: Roots causes and implications

The Symposium **Displacement and the environment: Root causes and implications**, at UNEA-2, will address one of the major humanitarian issues of our time: the unprecedented numbers of refugees and forced migrants around the world currently. The symposium will seek to understand how environmental degradation is driving human displacement and forced migration, and what climate change and growing resource scarcity might mean for such flows in future. It will also look at the environmental implications of massive displacement in terms of rapid urbanization and poorly managed refugee camps and the necessary coordinated humanitarian response.

**Henrik SLOTTE**, Head, Post-Conflict and Disasters Management Branch, UNEP (moderator)

**Dina IONESCO**, Head, Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM

**Michelle YONETANI**, Senior Strategic Advisor, Disasters and climate change, IDMC

16:35-16:45

## Closing Remarks

**Felix WERTLI**, Head, Global Affairs Section, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNEA-2

## Side events

There will be 26 official side events taking place from 23 to 26 May. These 90-minute events will provide space for inspiring discussions and concerted action on the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. There will also be 28 Green Room side events, mainly offered by Major Groups and Stakeholders. For more information on these events, kindly visit [www.unep.org/UNEA](http://www.unep.org/UNEA)

## Sustainable Development Expo

In parallel to the Assembly, a three-day Sustainable Innovation Expo (SIE2016) will take place from 23 to 25 May, bringing together all stakeholders committed to contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Expo will include moderated panel discussions, symposia and a business dialogue during the High-level Segment designed to link the private sector with policymakers.

## Science Policy Forum (SP-Forum)

UNEA-2 will be preceded by the Science Policy Forum (SP-Forum) on 19-20 May 2016, a platform which will bring together science and policy stakeholders to address challenges and new opportunities, with the aim of enhancing a collective understanding, strengthen the science policy dialogue and recommend concrete measures for collective action in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 16th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)

The 16th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) will be held on 21-22 May 2016 to facilitate the preparations of Major groups and stakeholders (MGS) for UNEA 2 as well as engage with CPR members and UNEP staff.

## Registration

A registration page has been designed to accommodate your registration request to UNEA-2 as well as complementary meetings: [registration.unon.org/unea/](http://registration.unon.org/unea/)

Pursuant to Governing Council Decision 27/2 and UNEA Resolution 1/15, UNEP may provide support within available resources, to one minister each from developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States with special vulnerabilities, and upon their request. Any requests for funding support has to be communicated by completing the fund support form and returned to the following address at the secretariat: [unep.sgb@unep.org](mailto:unep.sgb@unep.org) by 6 April 2016.

For participation in the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, please register here not later than 15 April 2016.

## Web and Social networks

UNEA: [web.unep.org/unea/](http://web.unep.org/unea/)

MyUNEA: [www.myunea.org](http://www.myunea.org)

Follow #UNEA2 on Twitter



The Geneva Environment Network (GEN) is a cooperative partnership of over 75 environment and sustainable development organizations based at the International Environment House and elsewhere in the Geneva area, including United Nations offices and programmes, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and academic institutions.

Set up in 1999, the GEN secretariat, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, actively promotes increased cooperation and networking between its members.

[www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org](http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org)

Contact: [Diana.Rizzolio@unep.org](mailto:Diana.Rizzolio@unep.org)



UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE) is the voice of UNEP in the European region. It provides guidance to governments, implements projects, and develops tools to tackle environmental challenges in Europe. These challenges include: cross-border management of the Caspian Sea, resource efficiency in cities, and climate adaptation in the Carpathian Mountains. UNEP ROE promotes and facilitates switching to more sustainable agriculture such as in Eastern and Central Europe; and assist in developing sound management of transboundary resources, for example river basins irrigating several countries. Our role entails scanning the horizon to alert authorities of emerging environmental threats, thus keeping the environment under review.

[www.unep.org/europe/](http://www.unep.org/europe/)

Contact: [Wondwosen.Asnake@unep.org](mailto:Wondwosen.Asnake@unep.org)



The UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) is an inter-agency programme of the United Nations mandated to develop constructive relations between the UN and civil society organizations. Core activities of UN-NGLS include: information and communication outreach to the international community and to global civil society; supporting the UN system in developing productive relationships and partnerships with NGOs and civil society; and supporting the work of NGOs/civil society that seek to constructively engage with the UN system.

[www.unngls.org](http://www.unngls.org)

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