



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 February 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that I will convene an Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature on Wednesday, 22 April 2020, in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, on the occasion of the International Mother Earth Day.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/224, Member States and other relevant stakeholders are invited to discuss and compare regional, national and local initiatives over the past decade, including actions and transformations in law, policy and education on Earth jurisprudence. The Interactive Dialogue will also address the relationship between harmony with nature and the protection of biological diversity with a view to inspiring citizens and societies to reconsider how they interact with the natural world in the context of sustainable development.

A draft concept note and a provisional programme are attached,. For further information, Ms. Noor Al-Sada, Senior Advisor, and Ms. Nehali Anupriya, Advisor may be contacted at noor.al-sada@un.org and nehali.anupriya@un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script.

Tijjani Muhammad Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



**INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON HARMONY WITH NATURE
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY**

**ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters
22 April 2020, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

CONCEPT NOTE

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/224, the President of the General Assembly will convene, an Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature on 22 April 2020, commemorating International Mother Earth Day.

Biodiversity plays a fundamental role in sustaining life as we know it; from cleaning the air we breathe and regulating our climate, to fertilising the soil that grows our food. The loss of biodiversity at unprecedented rates in human history is a benchmark of humanity's failure to understand that we are an inextricable part of nature.

Ecosystems, species, wilderness areas, wild populations, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are shrinking, deteriorating or vanishing. It is estimated that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction. This decline will continue or worsen under current economic, social and environmental models and it is imperative to rethink our human-Nature relationship.

The last decade has seen the growing use of formal and informal education curricula and the emergence of innovative legal developments to bring the underlying principles of Earth Jurisprudence to diverse public audiences. Earth Jurisprudence is the philosophical anchor for practical and multi-disciplinary approaches to creating change for living in harmony with Nature. From economics, to natural sciences, law and the arts, Earth Jurisprudence invites deep transformation from a human-centered to an Earth-centered paradigm by connecting our rational concern for biodiversity loss with responsibility for protecting our living planet.

The 2020 Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature will include the participation of Member States, United Nations entities, independent experts and other relevant stakeholders. The first year of the Decade of Action and Delivery of the 2030 Agenda is a decisive one for action to protect biodiversity and for living in harmony with nature. Participants will share case studies to exemplify pathways for Earth Jurisprudence and for reconnecting with the laws of Mother Earth.

Draft Programme

10 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Segment
10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Technical Session 1: A Transformative Pathway to Agenda 2030: Rethinking the Human-Nature Relationship Moderated dialogue with multi-stakeholder panellists, followed by Q&A from Member States, UN organizations and stakeholders <u>Guiding Questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given the urgency of our situation, how can we best protect and restore biodiversity from an Earth-centred perspective?• How can Member States maximise the linkages between the health of our natural environment and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?• With 2020 being referred to as ‘The Superyear for Nature’ and marking the launch of the Decade of Action for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, how can Earth Jurisprudence help us to rethink and prioritise our relationship with nature?
3 - 5:30 p.m.	Technical Session 2: Eco-literacy and Behavioural Changes Towards Living in Harmony with Nature Moderated dialogue with multi-stakeholder panellists, followed by Q&A from Member States, UN organizations and stakeholders <u>Guiding Questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What shifts are needed to change perceptions around how human life is related to the health of the planet as a whole, and the health of other species? How can these shifts be facilitated from a policy perspective?• How can eco-literacy contribute towards reformulating the relationship between human societies and nature?• What type and scope of partnerships are necessary to shape policies that address the need for societal shift and behavioural change?
5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Closing Segment