



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 August 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to refer to my letter dated 4 August 2020, circulating the concept note and informing of the inscription process for the Summit on Biodiversity, scheduled for Wednesday, 30 September 2020.

As mandated by General Assembly resolution 74/269, the Summit will feature two Leaders Dialogues to be chaired by two co-moderators at the level of Head of State and Government, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be selected by the President of the General Assembly, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation. The Leaders Dialogues are:

Leaders Dialogue 1 – “Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development”	Wednesday, 30 September from 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
Leaders Dialogue 2 – “Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity”	Wednesday, 30 September from 4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

In this regard, I kindly request you, in your capacity as Chairperson for the month of August, to consult with Member States of your Regional Group and thereafter forward the details of **one nominee only** to co-moderate one of the Leaders Dialogue, indicating preference no later than 28 August 2020. A guidance note for co-moderators and a draft programme is enclosed. For further information you may contact Ms. Toni-Shae Freckleton, Senior Adviser at toni-shae.freckleton@un.org, or Ms. Nehali Anupriya, Adviser, at Nehali.anupriya@un.org.

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

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

Chairs of UN Regional Groups for the month of August 2020

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

Summit on Biodiversity

30 September 2020

General Assembly Hall, United Nations, New York

Guidance Note for Co-Moderators in the Leaders Dialogues

Background:

On 30 September, global attention will turn to UN Headquarters in New York for the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity to address the theme of “*Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development*”. The Summit on Biodiversity will be chaired by the President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir.

As a Co-Moderator you will co-moderate one of the Leaders Dialogues to be held on 30 September in the afternoon at the General Assembly Hall at the UN Headquarters in New York as follows:

Leaders Dialogue 1 – “Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development”	Wednesday, 30 September from 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
Leaders Dialogue 2 – “Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity”	Wednesday, 30 September from 4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

Scenario of the meeting:

In advance of high-level week, the representatives of the Co-Moderators should meet with the UN Secretariat (UNEP, CBD and DGACM) focal points to reflect on the key guidance for the dialogues, such as (i) the need to focus on the theme of the Leaders Dialogue, (ii) guiding questions, (iii) strict adherence to the time limits, (iv) modalities of co-moderating, and (v) various other arrangements, including applicable UN language(s).

During the session, the Co-Moderators will play a critical role in ensuring the flow of the meeting. They will need to help keep strict time limits on interventions including their own comments.

The Co-Moderators will be present for the duration of the Leaders Dialogue virtually. They will begin the session by introducing the subject with a few brief messages (three minutes maximum). Their introduction should build on the guiding questions for each Leaders Dialogue as outlined in the Concept Note of the Leaders Dialogues. The Co-Moderators will emphasize that the interventions from speakers focus on these guiding questions.

One of the Co-Moderators will then introduce and give the floor to the first speaker (pre-recorded message or in-person as relevant) on the speaking list, starting with participating States based on customary protocol, followed by intergovernmental organizations with GA observer status, UN system and major groups and other stakeholders. One of the Co-Moderators will chair the first part of the session and the other will chair the second part.

The Co-Moderators will be assisted with the list of speakers and other procedural aspects by the Secretary of the meeting (DGACM). The list of speakers has been determined in advance. Speakers will be speaking via pre-recorded message or virtual live presentation or in-person from the lectern in the General Assembly Hall, as relevant. The Co-Moderators should remind participants of the time constraints and interrupt the speakers after 3 minutes, in order to ensure that the speakers list is exhausted within the allotted time.

When all Speakers have intervened, the Co-Moderators will make brief concluding remarks and will close the Leaders Dialogue.

PROGRAMME

SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY

Wednesday, 30 September 2020	
10.00 - 10.25	OPENING SEGMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by the President of the 75th session of the General Assembly • Statement by the Secretary-General • Statement by the President of Economic and Social Council • Statement by the host of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity • Statement by the host of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
10.27 – 10.47	OPENING SEGMENT Fireside Chat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP • CBD • IPBES • Eminent Person • Youth Representative
10.47 – 10.49	PGA Closing of the Opening Segment and Introduction of the Plenary
10.50 – 13.00	Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements delivered on behalf of groups of Member States (5 minutes each) • Statements delivered in national capacity, members of the specialized agencies, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and observers of the General Assembly (3 minutes each)
15.00 - 16.15	Leaders Dialogue 1 – Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Co-Moderators; (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion) • Representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each) • Other Representative (s) as outlined in 5(e) of the resolution (3 mins each)

16.15 – 17.30	<p>Leaders Dialogue 2: Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Moderators (one from Developed country and one from Developing country); (3 mins each for opening, 3 mins for conclusion) • Representatives of participating States, with priority given to Heads of State and Government (3 mins each) • Other Representative (s) as outlined in 5(e) of the resolution (3 mins each)
17.30- 18.00	<p>CLOSING SEGMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Messages from the Leaders Dialogues • Closing Remarks by the President of the 75th session of the General Assembly <p>The closing segment will focus on key messages and insights emerging from the Plenary and Leaders’ Dialogues. The perspective will be forward looking and action-oriented.</p>