



**Interactive Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly
to Commemorate International Mother Earth Day
Monday, 24 April 2023**

Concept Note

Background

One of the critical issues in our efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals is the further development of global governance of our global common goods. Similarly, increased attention has been focused on another question which can be crucial in our activities – the notion of responsibility in development.

Some countries recognize the rights of nature or Mother Earth in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, expressing the conviction that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature. In this evolving paradigm, humanity is embedded in Nature and is an integral part of Nature. From this standpoint, humanity plays a different role in how it perceives, understands, and interacts with the rest of the natural world. This role is increasingly leading academic conversations, scientific studies, and research worldwide encompassing multiple perspectives, worldviews, and understandings of Nature, embracing Indigenous Peoples and local communities' traditional knowledge that embodies concepts like Mother Earth. In this paradigm, Nature should not be objectified or commodified.

The Earth-centered paradigm stands in sharp contrast with the current dominant paradigm, which is anthropocentric, leaning more towards a short-term profit and economic growth rather than valuing Nature's contributions to our overall quality of life and Harmony with Nature, which includes the functions, structures, and ecosystem processes upon which all life depends. Scientists, scholars, researchers are racing to find sustainable solutions to address our existential crisis.

To address these challenges, societal goals will need to align with broad values like social and ecological justice towards people and the rest of Nature. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted on 18 December 2022, highlights the importance of the contribution and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and partners in conservation, restoration, and sustainable interaction. The Framework further recognizes and considers these diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, the rights of Nature and rights of Mother Earth, as being an integral part of its successful implementation, and further enhancing the role of collective actions, including by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Mother Earth-centered actions, and non-commodification of her environmental functions.



In the past 15 years, the discussion around Harmony with Nature has facilitated focused interactive dialogues on such concepts, building on both science and traditional worldviews of Indigenous Peoples, among other knowledge systems. The Harmony with Nature interactive dialogues has contributed to multilateralism and allowed policymakers to learn more about methodologies that enhance a balanced integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Objective and scope of the meeting:

The President of the General Assembly is convening an Interactive Dialogue during the commemoration of **International Mother Earth Day on 24 April 2023**, as mandated in General Assembly Resolution 77/169 of 14 December 2022.

This Interactive Dialogue is mandated to discuss *“the possibility of convening and the scope of a high-level meeting, tentatively entitled “Earth Assembly”, to be held on 22 April 2024, so that an evolving non-anthropocentric or Earth-centred paradigm continues to reinforce multilateralism through the discussion of alternative holistic approaches based on diverse world views that may contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁷ and beyond”*.

Format of the Meeting:

The interactive dialogue will take place from **10:00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber** and consist of an opening, plenary and closing segments. The time limit will be set at five minutes for statements made on behalf of the group and three minutes for national statements. Member States and observers of the General Assembly are invited to inscribe on the list of speakers via the e-Delegate platform. The list of speakers is now open for inscriptions. In view of the limited time available for the plenary segment, the texts of statements submitted by speakers inscribed on the list that are not delivered by the end of the meeting will be posted on “eStatements” in the Journal of the United Nations. In this regard, delegations are encouraged to send their statements to estatements@un.org to facilitate interpretation and for posting on “eStatements”.

Delegations wishing to circulate their statements are invited to submit PDF versions of their statements via email to estatements@un.org no later than two hours in advance of delivery. The name of the meeting should be indicated in the subject line of the email and in the heading of the statement. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery and then posted.

Participants:

The meeting is open to Member States and Observers, United Nations entities, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



Programme of the event:

- 10:00a.m.– 10:05a.m. Opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi
- 10:05a.m. – 10:10a.m. H.E. Mr. Luis Arce, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (pre-recorded video)
- 10:10a.m. – 10:15a.m. H.E. Ms. Teresa Ribera, Deputy Prime Minister of Spain (pre-recorded video)
- 10:15a.m. – 10:20a.m. H.E. Ms. Sonia Guajajara, Minister of State for Indigenous Peoples of Brazil
- 10:20a.m. – 10:25a.m. H.E. Mr. Suleiman Adamu, Minister of Water Resources of Nigeria (pre-recorded video)
- 10.25a.m. - 10.30a.m. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Li Junhua
- 10.30a.m.- 1.00 p.m. General Statements by Member States and other relevant stakeholders

Questions proposed to guide the interactive dialogue:

1. How can a possible high-level meeting provide a space to learn about diverse perspectives of Member States regarding an evolving non-anthropocentric and Earth-centered paradigm?
 2. How can multiple stakeholders be mobilized at the regional, national and local levels to ensure an equitable and inclusive process that represents the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, the scientific community, and decision-makers?
 3. How can the essence of the Earth-centered paradigm be further integrated to allow a science-policy interface of academic institutions and decision-makers? What are the entry points and opportunities that already exist to do so?
 4. How can a possible high-level meeting further reinforce existing multilateral processes and effectively contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond?
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