WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2020 – UNHQ CELEBRATIONS

Concept Note

Date: 5 June 2020 – UN World Environment Day

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am EST

If prompted, enter the following info to join:
Event number: 714022409
Event password: unepwed2020

Background

[World Environment Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Environment_Day), celebrated annually on June 5th, is the United Nations flagship day for encouraging global awareness and action to protect our environment. Held annually since 1974, this event has grown to become the biggest, most celebrated day for positive environmental action. The theme for World Environment Day 2020 is ‘Biodiversity’ and will feature a distinct visual identity using the hashtag #ForNature.

Biodiversity — the foundation of all life on land and below water — is threatened like never before. Human activities such as pollution, unsustainable use of land and sea, exploitation of organisms, climate change and invasion of alien species, are leading to biodiversity breakdown and the decline and degradation of natural ecosystems at an unprecedented scale.

The transmission of diseases, like the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19, between animals and humans threatens economic development, animal and human well-being, and ecosystem integrity. The current pandemic reflects our connectedness to one another and how actions and events in one part of the world affect us all. These connections make up the fabric of nature—weakening or removing one form of life impacts the entire biodiversity ecosystem, making species vulnerable to extinction and natural systems less resilient.

This year’s celebration will draw attention to the need for restoring nature and reversing biodiversity loss. As such, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is calling on governments, businesses and civil society to work together in building global understanding of biodiversity and nature’s key contribution to our survival.

Objective

The 2020 World Environment Day aims to highlight how we as humans are inextricably linked to and depend on nature for our existence and quality of life. This discussion will focus on policy and actions to
protect nature and the sustainable use of nature’s resources. It is also an opportunity to share and exchange practical and actionable solutions and strategies for successful and efficient implementation.

**UNHQ Event Agenda**

10:00 – 10:05  **Welcome remarks**

Satya S. Tripathi, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office, UN Environment Programme

10:05 – 10:15  **Opening remarks**

H.E. Amb. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Colombia to the United Nations

H.E. Amb. Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations

10:15 – 11:30  **Panel discussion**

*Moderator:*

Pavan Sukhdev, President of WWF International

*Panelists:*

H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, President of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway

H.E. Amb. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations

M. Sanjayan, CEO, Conservation International

Jennifer Morris, CEO, The Nature Conservancy

Roberto Marques, Executive Chairman and CEO of Natura &Co

Patricia Velásquez, Hollywood Actress and Organization of American States (OAS) Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas