



## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2019 CELEBRATION

### Concept Note

**Date:** Tuesday, 4 June 2019

**Time:** 15h00 – 16h30

**Venue:** Conference Room 1

#### **Background:**

[World Environment Day](#), is celebrated annually on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. It is the United Nations flagship day for encouraging global awareness and action to protect our environment. Since it began 45 years ago, this event has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries. The theme for World Environment Day 2019 is '**Air Pollution**'.

Air pollution, often referred to as the 'silent' killer, is a global health emergency. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 90 per cent of people worldwide breathe polluted air, causing nearly 7 million premature deaths annually.

A third of deaths from non-communicable diseases like stroke, lung cancer, heart attacks and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are due to air pollution. Health impacts are largest among women, children, older people and the poor. In addition, air pollution costs trillions of dollars to the global economy in lost lives and wellbeing.

Air pollution is both a health risk and a climate challenge. Some air pollutants that harm humans, like black carbon and tropospheric ozone, are also key drivers of climate change. Tackling air pollution brings many benefits, including better health, quality of life, and improved well-being, as well as reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Around the world, many measures are being taken to clean up the air and curb climate change. This year's *World Environment Day celebration* provides an occasion to share policy and actions to tackle air pollution as well as to exchange experiences on how countries are addressing this challenge.



## **Objective**

The discussion will focus on policy and actions to reduce air pollution and linkages between air pollution, environment, health and climate change. It is also an opportunity to share and exchange practical and actionable solutions and strategies for successful and efficient implementation.

## **Tentative Agenda**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 15:00 – 15:10 | Welcome remarks by Mr. Satya S. Tripathi<br>UN Assistant Secretary-General and<br>Head of the UN Environment, New York Office |
| 15:10 – 15:20 | Statement by H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces,<br>President of the 73 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly |
| 15:20 – 15:30 | Statement by the H. E. Inga Rhonda King<br>President of the UN Economic and Social Council                                    |
| 15:30 – 15:40 | Statement by the Permanent Representative of China<br>to the United Nations   |
| 15:40 – 16:00 | Keynote speech by Mr. Antonio Guterres<br>UN Secretary-General (TBC)  |
| 16:00 - 16:30 | Dialogue among participants<br>Conclusion of the celebration  |