



**President of the
General Assembly
79th Session**



United Nations General Assembly
High-level Meeting on Harmony with Nature and Living Well

Tuesday, 22 April 2025, Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Concept Note

Background

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 79/210, the President of the General Assembly will convene, a one-day high-level meeting on Harmony with Nature and Living Well during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2025. The meeting will be held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The meeting is intended to reinforce multilateralism through the promotion of sustainable lifestyles and holistic approaches in harmony with nature that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As contained in the resolution, Member States have recognised that planet Earth and its ecosystems are home to the well-being of all humans which is confirmed through the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet.

Acknowledging that Nature embodies different concepts and values for different people, including biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth, and systems of life. And appreciating that Nature's contributions to people also embody different concepts, such as ecosystem goods and services and nature's gifts. It also appreciates that both Nature and Nature's contributions to people are vital for human existence and good quality of life, including human wellbeing, living in harmony with nature, and living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. Finally, it acknowledges that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework recognizes and considers these diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth, as being an integral part of its successful implementation.

Thus, human well-being is inextricably linked to the well-being of planet Earth. The concept of Harmony with Nature recognizes humanity as part of the natural world, rather than separate from it, thereby underscoring the need to harmonize human activities with ecological systems and promoting sustainability through interdependent environmental, economic, and social practices

globally. Likewise, the concept of Living Well emphasizes the importance of general well-being sustainable living in all its dimensions: economic, social and environmental, and the preservation of nature for future generations.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a crucial blueprint for integrating a framework that represents a balanced relationship between human well-being and the planet into global policy discussions. This is particularly evident in, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goals 12, 13, 14 and 15. Specifically, Sustainable Development Goal target 12.8 emphasizes the need to ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. Advocating for such awareness is crucial to fostering responsible consumption and production patterns that contribute to the protection of the planet and social wellbeing. In addition to this awareness, as we approach the 2030 deadline, it is important that we scale up action in order to promote sustainable and holistic lifestyles.

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. This is why the Pact for the Future also recognises “the urgent need for a fundamental shift in our approach in order to achieve a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature.”

Objective

The one-day high-level meeting is mandated to continue reinforcing 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 Development, with participation of the United Nations system and multi-stakeholder participation from independent experts, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders, in particular Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Format

The high-level meeting will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment, and a panel discussion. The meeting will be open to Member States and Observers, the United Nations system and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations.

Panel Discussion: Promoting sustainable lifestyles and holistic approaches in harmony with nature

The panel will discuss existing policies, practices and associated challenges in the promotion of sustainable lifestyles and holistic approaches in harmony with nature that can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Guiding questions:

- How can the “Harmony with Nature and the Living Well” paradigm be further integrated into national, regional and international sustainable development frameworks?
- What policy mechanisms and governance structures are needed to promote sustainability?
- What are the challenges in ensuring that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in Harmony with Nature?
- How can multilateral processes be strengthened to incorporate diverse knowledge systems, including Indigenous perspectives, in decision-making?

Logistics

Member States and Observers are invited to inscribe in the list of speakers for the plenary segment of the meeting through e-deleGATE. The list of speakers will be opened on Monday, 31 March 2025 at 10 a.m. The time limit for statements will be three (3) minutes for individual statements and five (5) minutes for statements on behalf of groups.

There will be no pre-established list of speakers for the panel discussion. Participants wishing to take the floor during the interactive discussion are invited to press the microphone button. The time limit will be three (3) minutes for individual statements and five (5) minutes for statements on behalf of groups.

The meeting will be broadcasted on UN WebTV.

Programme Outline

Time	Session
10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Opening Segment
10:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Plenary Segment
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Lunch break
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion
