

Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly  
and the Committee of Permanent Representatives  
7 January 2019  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Agenda Item 3

### **Agenda Item 3: Preparations for the UN Environment Assembly**

#### **Second Global Session of the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment** *Held in the lead up to the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly*

Nairobi, 8 to 10 March 2019

---

The **UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment** will hold its second global session in Nairobi from 8 to 10 March 2019 in the lead up to the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly.

The Forum's work is aligned with the theme of the assembly: ***Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production***

Launched at the UN Environment Assembly in December 2017, the **UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment** is a framework designed to catalyze a more dynamic interface between science, policy, business and society by building consensus around key issues and by tearing down traditional barriers between these sectors.

The Forum promotes initiatives to grow green technology markets that are driven by advances in science and technology, empowering policies and innovative financing.

With a platform of over 2000 member institutions — representing the worlds of business, science and policy — the Forum provides a unique platform for multi-stakeholders to work together to shape the future, with the private sector given a unique place on the table as a key partner and driver of sustainable development.

With its pioneering work with the green technology sector and citizen science, the Forum is evolving into an **incubator** for innovation and new joint initiatives for the environment that aim to support and accelerate the delivery of UN Environment's Programme of Work.

#### **Working with partners, this Year's Forum covers the following key streams:**

##### **1. Science for Decision-Making: Shaping Policies and Market Responses**

A review of the latest recommendations from flagship environmental assessments released at the UN Environment Assembly, and discussions around the required policy responses and actions by the private sector and key stakeholders. These include the Global Environment

Outlook 6, the Global Chemicals Outlook, the Frontiers report and the Global Resources Outlook.

## **2. Laying the Foundations for a Global Platform for Planetary Data using Frontier Technologies**

This stream builds on the Forum's Extraordinary session hosted by the French the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) in Paris on 18-19 October 2018 at and organized in cooperation with the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), the French Alliance for Environmental Research (AllEnvi) and the Group on Earth Observations.

Sessions will cover the following key tracks: Opportunities offered by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning; Big Data, Earth observations and remote sensing, Governance, Equity and Ethics; Financing.

## **3. Redesigning Metropolis: Smarter, Greener Solutions for Cities**

By 2050, 70% of the human population will live in cities. Innovative technologies – from E-mobility to green buildings – need to be leveraged to maximize the efficient use of natural resources and encourage environmentally sound choices by all players across all sectors. We need to alter not only the physical design and infrastructure, but also to encourage positive resourcing decisions, behavioral change and policy action.

## **4. The Climate Challenge and Non-State Actors: From Transparency to Leadership**

National pledges under the Paris Agreement will only bring a third of the reduction in emissions required by 2030 to meet climate targets, with private sector and sub-national action not increasing at a rate that would help close this worrying gap. This session, organized in cooperation with Reuters Sustainability, examines means to empower and support private sector transparency and leadership to tackle climate change.

## **5. Smart Food for a Sustainable Planet**

We are producing and consuming more food than ever before, with detrimental impacts on the planet's natural systems. Sessions will examine:

- Agricultural transformation – sustainable and climate-smart agricultural models minimizing impacts on pollution - examples from rice sector and others including livestock sector.
- Nutrition and healthy diets - embracing difficult questions and debates about meat versus vegetarian diets, also considering biofortification, plant health, which benefits in turn human health
- Food waste – measuring and achieving food waste reduction at a global level

We welcome your active participation and your contribution to the event.

*For more information, please contact: Shereen Zorba, Head of the Secretariat of the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment, [Shereen.zorba@un.org](mailto:Shereen.zorba@un.org) / Skype: Shereen.zorba, WhatsApp/mobile: +254 788 526000*