

Preparations for the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly

Presentation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives
30 April 2020

Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Preparations for the fifth session of UNEA

The concept note addresses following key elements:

- The continued relevance UNEA-5 theme in the era of Covid-19
- Shifting the needle through an impact-driven Medium-Term Strategy
- Transformative action areas for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
- Enhancing the authority, impact and relevance of the Assembly through a limited set of ambitious UNEA resolutions and decisions
- Communicating the messages of the Assembly to citizens

The theme of UNEA 5 remains valid in the era of Covid-19

“Had we been further advanced in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, we could better face this challenge - with stronger health systems, fewer people living in extreme poverty, less gender inequality, a healthier natural environment, and more resilient societies. We must seize the opportunity of this crisis to strengthen our commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. By making progress on our global roadmap for a more inclusive and sustainable future, we can better respond to future crises”¹.

Secretary General’s report on the Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19

¹[Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19](#)

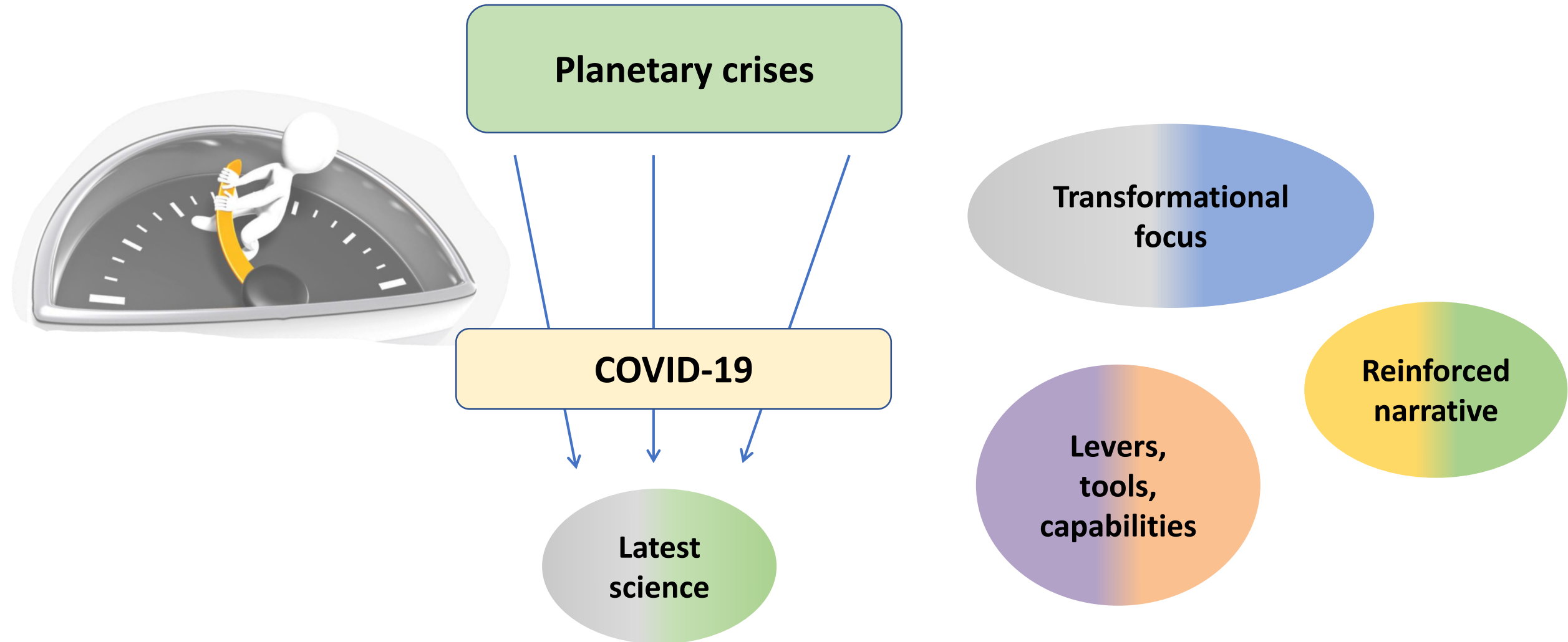
The theme of UNEA 5 remains valid in the era of Covid-19

Governments, the private sector and civil society must collaborate towards **urgent, transformative and sustained actions that deliberately reshape humanity's interaction with nature.**

Reforms and investments over the next 10 years must **simultaneously re-build our economies by addressing the systemic threats to nature, such as unsustainable consumption and production, rapid urbanization, as well as weaknesses in governance and accountability**, which in turn feed the five direct drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.



'Shifting the needle' through the next MTS



Medium Term Strategy 2020 Roadmap

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
CPR Sessions	5 -13	Early June (TBC) 18	2			12-16	9
	Informal Member State workshops	Outline MTS Narrative	Revised MTS Narrative and budget approach	MTS Revised Narrative and outline budget		Draft MTS + PoW + Budget + Result FW	Revised MTS + PoW + Budget endorsed for UNEA

Transformative action areas for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals



Opportunity for the multilateral community to identify and agree on bold transformative actions for Nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Action area 1: Nature for Jobs and Economic Prosperity

Action area 2: Nature for Health

Action area 3: Nature for Climate

Action area 4: Nature for Sustainable Food Systems

Enhancing the authority, impact and relevance of the Assembly through a limited set of ambitious resolutions and decisions



- Limited number of resolutions under the four proposed action areas.
- Take into account decisions and resolutions previously adopted by the Assembly and the next Medium-Term Strategy
- Focus on gaps and value addition in relation to existing commitments and those previously adopted.
- Secretariat proposal on possible action points to the Annual Subcommittee

Communicating the messages of the Assembly to citizens



In the lead-up to UNEA-5, the Secretariat intends to create synergies between the “**Time #ForNature**” campaign from World Environment Day to “**Actions #ForNature**” to align it with the assembly theme of ‘**Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.**’

UNEA-5 will position investments in nature and green jobs, sustainable finance, sound chemicals management, and sustainable production and consumption at the forefront of Covid-19 recovery plans.

The Environment Assembly can mobilize leadership and generate new broad political commitments to nature, underpinned by measurable and timebound targets captured in its political ministerial declaration, resolutions and partnerships designed to reverse the negative trends on biodiversity loss.

Way Forward

It is recommended that the CPR and the UNEA Bureau consider the following:

- Supporting the relevance of the Environment Assembly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- How the proposed four action-areas can help strengthen actions from all sectors of society;
- Examining further how to reach a limited set of resolutions that address the drivers of the decline of nature and biodiversity loss;
- Supporting efforts to mobilize the private sector toward targeted investments in support of ecosystem-based approaches, including nature-based solutions;
- Providing guidance on the proposed communication strategy;
- Provide guidance on how the United Nations Environment Assembly can serve as a platform where the international community discusses the interactions of environmental issues by benefitting from the universal leadership of the Assembly and in this context enhance cooperation among UNEP and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.



Thank you