



## Concept Note and Agenda

### Side Event at the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties 2021 (COP26) on Green Deals to Accelerate Ecosystem Restoration, Climate Action and Sustainable Development Goals Implementation

Date: 4pm – 5:30pm, Thursday, 4 November 2021  
Venue: Korea Pavilion of COP26, Glasgow, United Kingdom

*Organized by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)*

#### 1. Background

2020 was one of the warmest years on record which is a stark reminder of the relentless pace of climate change and its potential adverse effects to livelihoods across our planet<sup>1</sup>. It is evident that strong mitigation actions are needed more than ever to limit the global temperature rise and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 to prevent irreversible damages from climate change.

In addition, the discourse on building back better and greener has also been accentuated due to emerging global challenges posed by the COVID-19<sup>2</sup>, aggravating the burdens on the governments worldwide in tackling climate change. As a response to climate emergency while considering sustainable recovery from the pandemic, countries across the globe have announced and implemented 'Green Deals'. Investment in ecosystem restoration has often been included as a key component of these green deals.

Restoration of degraded land is essential for keeping global climate promises. Actions that prevent, halt and reverse degradation can deliver one-third of the mitigation that is needed by 2030 to keep global temperatures below 2°C<sup>3</sup>. Ecosystem supports all life on earth including people. Protection and revival of ecosystem can help not only to combat climate change, but also to end poverty and prevent the collapse of biodiversity.

Under the backdrop of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), UNOSD will organize a side event which focuses on accelerating ecosystem restoration, climate action and sustainable development through green deals. The event will incorporate presentations from the countries on their experiences, best practices, and lessons learned on Green Deal as a means to accelerate nature crisis responses and realize the SDGs.

#### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the side event are to provide a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing through presentations and discussions on Green Deal as a framework for facilitating ecosystem restoration, climate action and sustainable development. The workshop is expected to have the following outcomes:

- Enhancing knowledge and understanding on interlinkages between ecosystem protection and revival, climate change and other SDGs;
- Sharing knowledge on ecosystem restoration as a key component of Green Deal among country representatives, policymakers, practitioners, and experts;

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<sup>1</sup> UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's 2021 New Year's video message <https://www.un.org/sg/>

<sup>2</sup> COP26 Explained page 6 <https://2nsbq1gn1rl23zol93eyrccj-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COP26-Explained.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> UNEP Report Becoming #GenerationRestoration: Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature and Climate <https://www.unep.org/resources/ecosystem-restoration-people-nature-climate>

- Developing countries' capacities on designing and implementing national sustainable development policies and recovery plans for accelerating ecosystem restoration and climate action and achieving the SDGs; and
- Exchanging experiences and lessons learned on addressing ecosystem restoration through Green Deal.

The panel members will address some of the following questions:

- What links ecosystem restoration to climate action and other SDGs?
- How can we make peace with nature through Green Deals?
- What are the challenges and opportunities that arise in developing and implementing the Green Deals?
- How can we engage the key partners, stakeholders and communities?

### 3. Participants

The side event will gather country representatives, government officials, policymakers, experts, and stakeholders who are attending the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) being held from 1 to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. The event will also be live streamed online to engage more participants in a hybrid format.

### 4. Agenda

Agenda (Tentative)	
Thursday, 4pm – 5:30pm, 4 November 2021	
Time	Content
16:00	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Mr. Chun Kyoo Park</b> , Head of Office, UNOSD
16:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <b>Prof. Yun, Sun-jin</b> , Chair of the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Commission of Korea
16:15	<b>Keynote Speech</b> <b>Mr. Tim Christophersen</b> , Head of Nature for Climate Branch, UNEP (online)
16:25	<b>Korea Green New Deal and Ecosystem</b> <b>Mr. Il Young Oh</b> , IUCN-Republic of Korea Senior Government Manager, IUCN
16:35	<b>European New Deal and Ecosystem</b> <b>Ms. Karin Zaunberger</b> , European Commission, Directorate General for Environment (online)
16:45	<b>Dr. Sarwat Chowdhury</b> , Head of Inclusive Green Economy & Policy, UNDP Papua New Guinea (pre-recorded video)
16:55	<b>Dr. Jong Soo Yoon</b> , Chair of IUCN Korea
17:02	<b>Ms. Bernadette Fischler Hooper</b> , Head of International Advocacy, World Wildlife Fund UK
17:10	<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b> Moderated by <b>Ms. Yujeong Kim</b> , Senior Development Management Expert, UNOSD

- *Mr. Muhammad Irfan Tariq, Director General (Environment & Climate Change), Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan (TBC)*

### 5. Organizers

This event is organized by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

## **6. Formality**

The side event will be held in a hybrid format in which live streaming service will be provided to the online participants via Webex and Youtube.