

**INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HARMONY WITH NATURE
IN COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY**

UNHQ, New York, Wednesday 22 April 2020, ECOSOC Chamber

CONCEPT NOTE

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/224, the President of the General Assembly will convene an Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature on 22 April 2020 commemorating International Mother Earth Day.

Biodiversity plays a fundamental role in sustaining life as we know it; from cleaning the air we breathe and regulating our climate, to fertilising the soil that grows our food. The loss of biodiversity at unprecedented rates in human history is a benchmark of humanity's failure to understand that we are an inextricable part of Nature.

Ecosystems, species, wilderness areas, wild populations, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are shrinking, deteriorating or vanishing. It is estimated that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction. This decline will continue or worsen under current economic, social and environmental models and it is imperative to rethink our Human-Nature relationship.

The last decade has seen the growing use of formal and informal education curricula and the emergence of innovative legal developments to bring the underlying principles of Earth Jurisprudence to diverse public audiences. Earth Jurisprudence is the philosophical anchor for practical and multi-disciplinary approaches to creating change for living in harmony with Nature. From economics, to natural sciences, law and the arts, Earth Jurisprudence invites deep transformation from a human-centered to an Earth-centered paradigm by connecting our rational concern for biodiversity loss with responsibility for protecting our living planet.

The 2020 Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature will include the participation of Member States, United Nations entities, independent experts and other relevant stakeholders. The first year of the Decade of Action and Delivery of the 2030 Agenda is a decisive one for action to protect biodiversity and for living in Harmony with Nature. Participants will share case studies to exemplify pathways for Earth Jurisprudence and for reconnecting with the laws of Mother Earth.

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