

FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW OF LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL ACTION ON RIO CONVENTIONS

16 JUNE MONDAY, 14:00 – 15:30

ROOM: V-U-111, AHH BUILDING, UN CAMPUS, BONN, GERMANY

[VIRTUAL CONNECTION LINK](#) (MS TEAMS MEETING ID: 396 525 496 048 1 PASSCODE: 7ID379XK)

Rationale:

The term “Rio Conventions” define multilateral environmental agreements on; climate (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC), biodiversity (Convention Biological Diversity-CBD) and desertification (UN Convention on Land Degradation and Drought-UNCCD) as legacies of UN Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The 6th UN Environment Assembly in 2024 held the first ever dialogue on synergies among MEAS, including Rio Conventions. Pursuant to its active engagement and leadership in the global environmental governance since 1992 Earth Summit, and building on the outcomes of 3 Rio Conventions COPs as well as the Summit of the Future in 2024, at Mayors Forum at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh on 6th December, ICLEI announced its commitment to convene an annual dialogue on the local and subnational action on Rio Conventions, along the margins of the annual Daring Cities Forum held in Bonn in tandem to annual UN Bonn Climate Conferences.

Background:

The 1992 Earth Summit was a milestone in global environmental governance by introducing the concept of sustainable development through Agenda21, defining a framework through 3 Rio Conventions and acknowledging 9 Major Groups, including local authorities, as key partners of UN system.

Over these 30+ years, Agenda21 evolved in the Sustainable Development Goals, climate action evolved from a limited mitigation focus into a more global, inclusive and transformative agenda, biodiversity evolved from flora and fauna protection into harmony with nature and ecosystems services, drought and desertification expanded into a global phenomenon on land use, each following unique pathways.

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These evolutions were strongly connected to the efforts in advancing effectiveness of global environmental governance, as well as UN wide efforts sustainable development.

The experiences of several joint Rio Conventions Pavilions at Conference of Parties, have been further advanced with certain COP decisions, initiatives such as Bern Process at the CBD, Rio Trio at UNFCCC and Riyadh Action Agenda at UNCCD as well as critical decisions at the 6th UN Environment Assembly and 2nd UN Habitat Assembly.

The social and technological global transformations after COVID-19 pandemic and exceeding emergency thresholds in a number of planetary boundaries also fostered the need for more innovative and holistic approaches.

All these efforts have reached new heights with the Mutirao vision of COP30 Incoming Presidency and the acceleration of expected UN-wide governance reforms under the UN80 Initiative.

Thanks to their recognition as one of the 9 Major Groups, local authorities also advanced their engagement as local and regional or other subnational governments, and demonstrated most promising examples of multilevel action across the UN system.

In their joint letter ahead of Climate COP28 in Dubai in 2023, governments of Azerbaijan, Colombia and UAE also underlined the importance of local and subnational action to reach common goals.

Event description:

As there has been no precedence for such a dialogue, ICLEI proposes this first Annual Review of Local and Subnational Action on Rio Conventions to be convened as a stocktaking exercise with a forward-looking perspective, in light of the expected progress and outcomes by COP30 and beyond.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Simone Sandholz**, Head of Urban Futures and Sustainability Transformation Programme, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)

Keynote presentation: An overview of Constituency-based engagement of local and other subnational governments at Rio Conventions (7 minutes)

- **Yunus Arikan**, Director of Global Advocacy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Holistic action good practices by local and other subnational government representatives: (15 minutes)

- **Rachel Lévesque**, Senior Advisor for Climate and Environment, Government of Quebec, Canada
Suggested guiding context: A subnational government in the global North who is particularly active on climate and nature/biodiversity, but also trying to address issues like urban sprawl, food waste management or forest fires which are directly related to land use, degradation.
- **Pilar Bueno**, City of Rosario, Argentina
Suggested guiding context: as a local government in the global South, experience on climate-land-nature action in the City of Rosario through 3 Rio Conventions with a specific focus on urban adaptation
- **Cihan Dünder**, Head of Climate and Zero Waste Department, Mugla Metropolitan Municipality, Türkiye
Suggested guiding context: A metropolitan scale local government in advanced developing country striving for ambitious goals under serious pressure of conflicting interests between forestry, energy, agriculture, drought and tourism

UN System representatives: (25 minutes)

- **Jacopo Pasquero**, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Suggested guiding context: Latest updates from Bern III process and CBD COP16 outcomes
- **Danielle Violetti**, Senior Director, UN Climate Change
Suggested guiding context: Perspectives on the role of multilevel NDC3.0 and potential COP30 outcomes
- **Sasha Alexander**, UNCCD Secretariat
Suggested guiding context: Perspectives on COP16 outcomes
- **Martin Krause**, Director of Climate Change Division, UNEP
Suggested guiding context: Progress on the implementation of UNEA6 – MEA resolution and preparations for UNEA7
- **Bernhard Barth**, Programme Coordinator, UNHabitat
Suggested guiding context: Insights from UNHA2 resolutions on climate and biodiversity and reflections on the newly adopted UNHabitat Strategy

Perspectives from COP Presidencies: (15 minutes)

- **Lala Hikmat**, Azerbaijan, UNFCCC COP29 Presidency
- **Hugo Mendes** and **Bruna Cerqueira**, Brazil, UNFCCC COP30 Incoming Presidency
- Invited delegations; Colombia (CBD COP16 Presidency), S.Arabia (UNCCD COP16 Presidency), Mongolia (UNCCD COP17 Incoming Presidency)

Joint Open Dialogue (25 minutes):

Options to accelerate integrated, holistic, ambitious action on climate-land-nature in a 1,5oC overshoot world, in search of SDG-Rescue plan and under a new multilateral system through the UN80 Initiative

Kick-starters from the LGMA Constituency:

- **Felix Dodds**, Adjunct Professor at the Water Institute University of North Carolina
- **Kobie Brand**, ICLEI Africa Regional Director and ICLEI Deputy Secretary General
- **Axel Graef**, Special Envoy, City of Niteroi, Brazil