

GLOBAL BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE

“BUSINESS FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS”

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

REPORT



GBA4E is part of the UNEP Business and Industry Major Group (BIMG)

SUMMARY

On February 9th 2022, The Global Business Alliance for the Environment (GBA4E), part of the UNEP Business and Industry Major Group held a virtual High-Level Dialogue. The dialogue brought together 100 participants, including ambassadors and country representatives, UN & UNEP employees, and private sector delegates from across all the globe. Business representatives were drawn from a wide range of sectors including manufacturing, oil and gas, food processing, crop inputs, livestock, conservation, finance, technology and agritech, among others.

Speaking on behalf of the UNEA Presidency, H.E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Norway provided the keynote. He acknowledged the crucial role of the private sector in realizing a sustainable future. Green finance, green businesses, green jobs, and green energy are some of the opportunities for partnerships. Amb. Holm challenged businesses to be



strong advocates and push Member States for greater ambition for the environment on climate, biodiversity, and pollution issues. For UNEA 5.2, the UNEA Presidency's priority is initiating the process towards a global legally binding agreement on plastics pollution.

"Private sector is crucial for our sustainable future. Business can contribute to green jobs, green finance, and green energy." – H.E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Norway

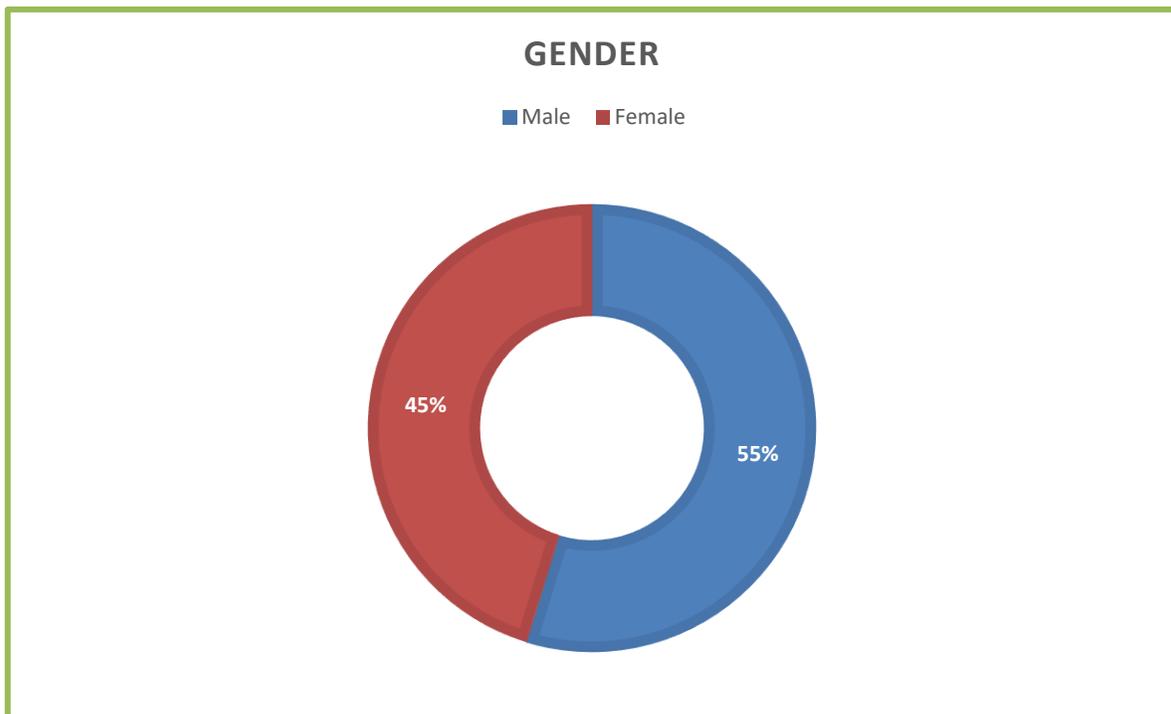
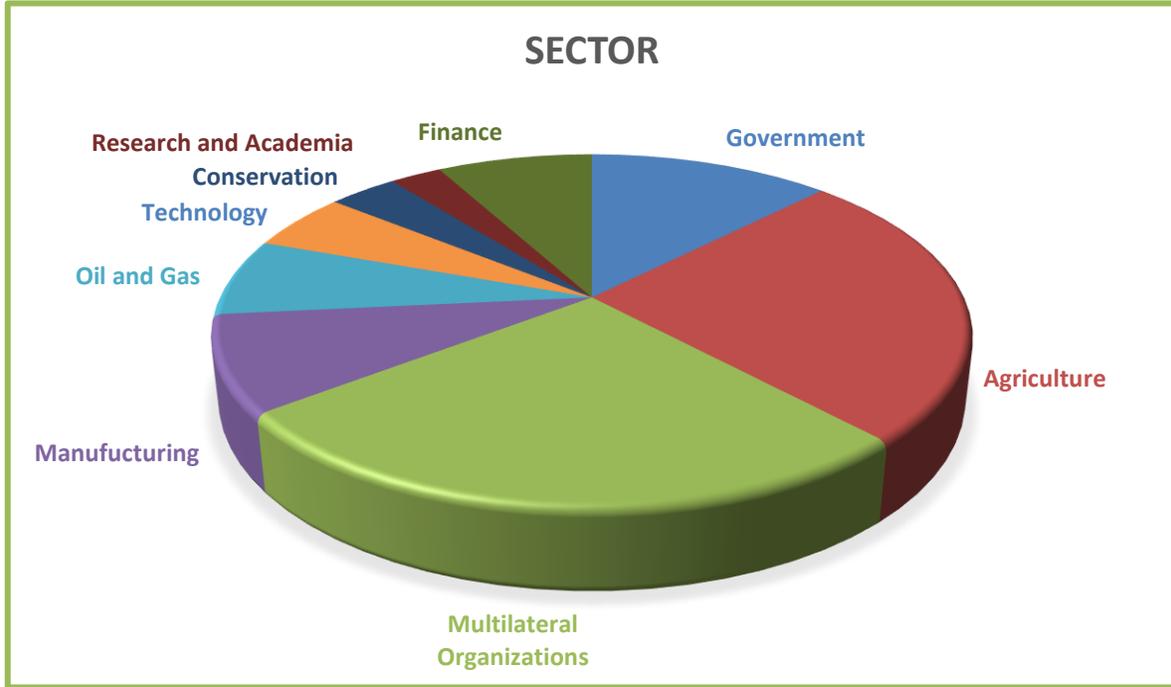
Mr. Henrik Slotte, Special Advisor, Corporate Services Division, UNEP, spoke on behalf of UNEP Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen. Mr. Slotte noted that UNEP is shifting from bilateral partnerships to more engagements via platforms, networks, and campaigns to scale up business transformation. He invited the private sector to celebrate UNEP@50 through individual environmental action and embracing a circular economy.



Mrs. Margaret Munene, CEO Palmhouse Dairies & Co-chair, UNEP BIMG spoke on behalf of business and highlighted business actions for nature including leadership in innovation, deployment of sustainable technologies, recycling and transition to a circular economy and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

"Now is the time to act to address the triple environmental crisis. Business is part of Strengthening Actions for Nature to achieve the SDGs." - Mrs. Margaret Munene, CEO, Palmhouse Dairies & Co-chair, UNEP BIMG

PARTICIPANTS



KEY OUTCOMES

Interactive sessions were held in breakout rooms, with each room covering a selected theme. Participants were guided to share current initiatives that businesses are undertaking and identify solutions to strengthen Nature Based Solutions.

The sessions highlighted the following as priorities to strengthen business actions for nature:

Nature for Climate Action

- Collaborative partnerships to be established to scale small sustainability projects.
- Finance for SMEs and small businesses can incentivize transition to a green economy.
- Resource efficiency, especially in the energy sector, for cleaner energy production.
- Build business capacity on Environmental, Social, and (Corporate) Governance (ESG).
- Initiatives and concepts proposed include climate finance, biodiversity financing projects, carbon pricing policies and precision agriculture.

Nature for Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- Direct funds and resources to support smallholder farmers. A bottom-up approach will support farmers and SMEs to be more responsible guardians of resources including soils.
- Invest in innovations and technologies to enhance nature-positive production. Scale the use of innovations such as hydroponics, solar-based sprinklers and green labelling.
- Partner with frameworks such as the UN CBD, UNFCCC, UNEP WCMC and other UN agencies to benchmark as well as develop industry training on biodiversity management.
- Initiatives such as the Cross Sector Biodiversity Initiative (CSBI) help develop best practice and share knowledge on biodiversity management.

Nature for Pollution Action

- Address the supply and demand side of plastic pollution.
- New technology and innovations such as plastic eating bacteria, corn-based packaging, green chemistry, and bioplastics, can help manage plastic pollution.
- Apply a value chain approach in addressing pollution.
- Develop multi partner roadmaps that clearly define targets and employ a top-down vs. a ground up approach.
- Life cycle approaches to pollution management are key.
- Catalyze and scale commitments from private sector for sound chemicals management.

Nature for a Sustainable Food System

- Provide farmers with training on sustainable farming practices and support such as extension services, market access and quality seeds.
- Finance and de-risk sustainable farming through collaborations across sectors.

- Include communities in food system discussions to improve farming practices.
- Strengthen consumer education to change behavior to improve diets; and sustainable consumption to reduce waste.
- Improve metrics for better decision making.
- Increase urban farming
- Incentivize production of healthy, indigenous foods.
- Vocational training to increase private sector financing and enhance market access.

Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity

- Invest in climate-smart agriculture.
- Make innovations affordable for small-scale farmers.
- Capacity building and organization for poorer communities.
- Empower women.
- Educate the public sector for a sustainable nature-based approach
- Scale initiatives such as government subsidy programs, PPPs, Private Business Investments, multi-sectoral partnerships, and partnerships for smart commodities.

CONCLUSION



“Innovation is not only for technology but also for forums of discussions, for types of partnerships, for policy design. We need that kind of innovation both in action and in our dialogues in designing our next steps together.” – Norine Kennedy, SR VP, Policy and Global Strategy, USCIB

Business is committed to *Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. This is being achieved through collaborative action, sharing knowledge on best practices and investments in R&D to enhance adoption of innovations and sustainable technologies. Financing is critical for all these initiatives to be scaled and be truly transformational.

“People-first public private partnerships are the vehicle in which we can bridge that huge financing and capacity gap.” – Jim Donovan, ADEC Innovation



FEATURED SPEAKERS

- H.E. Mr. Gunnar Andreas Holm, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Norway
- Mr. Henrik Slotte, Special Advisor, Corporate Services Division, UNEP
- Moderators:
Mrs. Margaret Munene, CEO, Palmhouse Dairies & Co-chair, UNEP BIMG
Mr. Jim Donovan, CEO, ADEC Innovations & Co-chair, UNEP BIMG