WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023

‘Solutions to Plastic Pollution’

UNHQ New York Commemoration

Concept Note

**Date:** Monday, 5 June, 2023

**Time:** 11am – 12pm EDT

**Background**

In 2023 World Environment Day turns 50. Led by UNEP and celebrated annually on 5 June since 1973, World Environment Day has grown to be one of the biggest global platforms for environmental outreach, with millions of people across the world engaging to protect the planet.

World Environment Day 2023 is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands. The 2023 campaign #BeatPlasticPollution will focus on solutions to plastic pollution. It highlights regional and international policies, technologies and innovations that provide real, lasting solutions to this global problem – especially those that promote a just transition to a plastic circular economy.

Transboundary in nature, plastic pollution needs coordinated international action. In early 2022, representatives of 175 UN Member States endorsed an historic resolution at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding plastics agreement. They met in May 2023 to continue the negotiations with the intention to complete the process by 2024. While government negotiations continue, World Environment Day 2023 will be a key moment in the push for governments, cities and businesses to advance solutions to beat plastic pollution.

**Objective**

The event will highlight the importance of working together for collective, transformative action to beat plastic pollution. Member States and stakeholders will, in that context, have an opportunity to share what transformative changes their countries are enabling through collective action on plastic pollution.
Draft Agenda

11:00 – 11:02 Welcome by Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director UNEP New York Office

11:02 - 11:07 Opening remarks by Ms. Ligia Noronha, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the UNEP New York Office

11:07 – 11:09 Short video on World Environment Day (TBD)

11:09 – 11:12 Video message from UNEP Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen (TBD)

11:12 – 11:15 Video message from UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres (TBD)

11:15 – 1:20 Remarks by Côte d'Ivoire, global host WED2023 (TBD)

11:20 – 1:25 Remarks by Ayisha Siddiq, Youth Advisor, UN Secretary-General Youth Advisory Group, Co-founder of Polluters Out and Fossil Free University (TBD)

1.25 – 1.30 Remarks by Cyrill Gutsch, CEO, Parley for the Oceans (TBD)

1:30 – 12:00 Interventions by Member States

12:00 Closing