

High-Level Leadership Dialogue

Wednesday 6th December - 10:30-11:15

UNEP Pavilion – Blue Zone COP28 – Dubai

Harmonizing environmental data: towards a global environmental data strategy

Event description:

There is not enough data to assess progress for 41% of the SDGs environment indicators according to UNEP Studies. Big Data on the environment is essential to our understanding of the state of the world environment and the production of science-based tools for decision-making by governments, investors, industries and consumers, among others.

With the advent of new earth observation systems and AI tools, now data from multiple sources has the potential to improve transparency and accountability, and to help identify solutions and collaborations to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement across disciplines and sectors.

And while AI and frontier technologies offer new solutions, they also come with complex and never-before encountered issues and challenges that need to be understood, analyzed, regulated, and addressed.

Issues related to financing, equity, equality and reporting require a deep dive. Recognizing the importance of better data governance and access, the UN Environment Assembly called for the development of a Data Strategy for the Environment and Climate by 2025.

Held on Digital Day, the Leadership Dialogue will explore:

- What has been done so far in the development of a Global Environmental Data Strategy (GEDS) – including support and data integrations and analysis at the national level, and role of WESR.
- Gaps, priorities, and opportunities for action in climate data.
- Elements related to legislation, equity, democracy and transparency related to the technology use and the equitable sharing of Big Data products and services.
- How the work of the Data for the Environment Alliance (DEAL) is shaping up and the opportunities it presents.

Speakers include:

- Katrin Saarsalu-Layachi, Estonian Ambassador at Large for Climate and Energy Policy
- Sally Radwan, Chief Digital Officer, UNEP

- Justin Keeble, Managing Director of Global Sustainability, Google
- Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Environmental Activist, Geographer
- Dr. Christian Feichtinger, Executive Director, International Astronautical Federation
- Levent Ergin, Global Chief ESG Sustainability Strategist, Informatica