

A person wearing a traditional woven hat is seen from behind, looking out over a valley. The valley features terraced rice fields and a village on a hillside. The scene is captured in a high-angle, wide shot, with the person's hat and shoulder in the foreground on the right. The background shows a lush green landscape with a small village on a hillside, surrounded by terraced rice fields. The sky is bright with some clouds.

COUNTDOWN TO CBD COP15: LANDMARK LEADERS' EVENT FOR A NATURE POSITIVE WORLD

Securing an agreement to save our life support systems

20 SEPTEMBER 2022 - 6:00PM

SPEAKER BIOS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ms. Andrea Meza

Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD

Andrea Meza is the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Before her current position she served in the Government of Costa Rica, as Minister of Energy and Environment and as Climate Change Director. She has also worked as international consultant for more than 15 years with multilateral and bilateral agencies (IDB, World Bank, EU, GIZ, AECID) in the design and implementation of sustainable development policies and projects related to climate change, land conservation, management of protected areas, land use and transport planning in LAC region. She started her professional career working with an NGO in land conservation issues promoting conservation easements, payment of environmental services, and promoting the creation of private and community reserves in Latin America.



OPENING

OPENING STATEMENT

President H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Chaves Robles President of the Republic of Costa Rica

He served as Minister of Finance of Costa Rica from November 2019 to May 2020. He is preceded by a 27-year career at the World Bank, where the last position he held was Country Director for Indonesia & Timor-Leste, from August 2013 to November 23, 2019. Mr. Chaves Robles is noted for his leadership of high-performing teams advising on transformative public policy. He has 30 years of macroeconomics, public policy and finance experience in over 40 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Asia and East Asia. He manages high-profile business relationships with members of government, the private sector, the international community and civil society; efficient management of budgets and negotiations in complex public affairs. He is characterized by critical thinking, strategic and innovation skills. In his more than three decades of experience, he has developed analytical and operational work. He has implemented macro and microeconomic policies, including tax adequacy, quality of tax spending and fiscal spending, local public services, financial market development, private sector, entrepreneurship, credit and investment, and rural development. He headed the Financial Sector Assessment of Emerging Economies for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Mr. Rodrigo A. Chaves Robles holds a PhD in Applied Economics and Financial Markets and Institutions from Ohio State University, and is an expert in macroeconomics, public macroeconomics, public policy, rural development and poverty reduction.



OPENING STATEMENT

H.E. Rt Hon Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

Justin Trudeau is Canada's 23rd Prime Minister. He has been the Prime Minister of Canada since November 2015 and the elected Leader of the Liberal Party since April 2013. Justin studied literature at McGill University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in 1994. He went on to complete the University of British Columbia's education program, and spent several years teaching French, math, and other subjects in Vancouver. As Prime Minister, Justin is focused on creating good middle class jobs, making life more affordable, keeping Canada's communities safe, fighting climate change, and moving forward on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. A proud feminist, Justin appointed Canada's first gender balanced Cabinet.



OPENING STATEMENT

Jennifer Tauli Corpus

Leader, negotiator and expert of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity

Jennifer Tauli Corpuz, from the Kankana-ey Igorot Indigenous people in the Philippines, a lawyer by profession, is Managing Director for Policy at Nia Tero. She is a leader, negotiator and expert of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) on area-based conservation (30x30), access and benefit sharing, digital sequence information (DSI), and Indigenous peoples' rights. She is the former coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Policy Advocacy Program of Tebtebba – Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education. She was the 2012 Indigenous Intellectual Property Fellow at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and since then has participated in the WIPO IGC negotiations on the protection of traditional knowledge.



**LEADERS' LANDMARK CALL TO SAVE OUR
LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND ACHIEVE A
NATURE POSITIVE WORLD BY 2030**

STATEMENT

President H.E. Mr. Gustavo Petro Urrego

President Colombia

President Gustavo Petro Urrego is an economist from the Universidad Externado de Colombia. He has a specialization in Public Administration from the Escuela Superior de Administración Pública of Colombia (ESAP), a Master's degree in Economics from Universidad Javeriana in Colombia, a specialization in Environment and Population Development from the Catholic University of Louvain and PhD studies in New Trends in Business Administration from the University of Salamanca, in Spain. He founded, together with the demobilized members of the peace process, the political party Alianza Democrática M-19, a movement that achieved great popular support and participated in the drafting of the 1991 Political Constitution of Colombia. With the support of this movement, Gustavo Petro became a member of the House of Representatives in. In 1994 he was appointed to the Colombian Embassy in Belgium as diplomatic attaché for Human Rights, a position he held until 1996. He returned to Colombia in 1998 and again ran for the House of Representatives with the endorsement of the Vía Alternativa Movement, which he had founded together with other former members of the M-19 Party and was again elected Representative for the 2002-2006 period. From 2006 to 2010, Gustavo Petro was Senator of the Republic, where he was elected the best congressman both by his colleagues and by the national press, thanks to his denunciations of corruption and his political control debates, including the one on paramilitarism in Antioquia. He was elected Mayor of Bogota for the 2012 to 2015 term, and in 2018 he was a Presidential candidate for the Significant Movement of Citizens - Colombia Humana, with a historic result of more than 8 million votes; having obtained the second highest vote in the presidential elections and making use, for the first time, of the Statute of the Opposition, he acted as Senator of the Republic for the period from 2018 to 2022. On June 19, 2022, he was chosen as President of the Republic of Colombia, together with Vice President Francia Márquez Mina.



STATEMENT

President H.E. Mr. Guillermo Lasso Mendoza President of Ecuador

Guillermo Lasso Mendoza was born in Guayaquil on November 16, 1955. Being the last of 11 siblings, he worked in his adolescence to contribute financially to his home and finish his studies. From a young age, he always dreamed of promoting opportunities for Ecuadorians and of working to build a better Ecuador for all. His career, of more than 50 years of experience in the public and private sectors, has been marked by ideas of progress, and dedication to his country and his family. He has written two books: "Letters to my children" and "Another Ecuador is possible", in which he expresses in each word the stages of his life and his political ideals, correspondingly. In addition, in 2011, he received an Honorary Doctorate from the Universidad de las Américas due to his professional career and achievements. He founded Ecuador Libre, a think tank that promotes individual liberty, justice, free markets, private property, and the rule of law. To serve the Ecuadorians, he founded the Creating Opportunities (CREO) party. In 2021, he won the Presidency after being a candidate in 2013 and 2017. The main objective of his mandate is to build the Ecuador of the Encounter, to generate opportunities for all Ecuadorians. His commitment and duty to citizens are established as the guide that will lead the way to a more democratic, peaceful, and free country for all.



STATEMENT

H.E. Mr. Timmermann

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

Frans Timmermans is Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, leading its work on the European Green Deal. He is responsible for the European Climate Law that put the 2050 climate-neutrality target into law and for the Fit for 55 package to meet the -55% emission reduction target for 2030. Frans Timmermans leads the EU's international climate negotiations. In June, he presented the Nature Restoration Law, part of the Biodiversity Strategy. He also oversees the Commission's zero-pollution ambition, the circular economy action plan, the Farm to Fork strategy and other initiatives.

From 2014-2019 Timmermans was First Vice-President in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. In the Netherlands, he previously served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2012-2014), Minister of European Affairs (2007-2010) and Member of Parliament for Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA) (2010-2012 and 1998-2007).



STATEMENT

H.E. Mr António Guterres

Secretary General of the United Nations

The ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017. Previously, he served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015. Mr. Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as prime minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, as President of the European Council in early 2000. Mr. Guterres is a member of the Club of Madrid, a leadership alliance of democratic former presidents and prime ministers from around the world.



STATEMENT

Mr. Huang Runqiu

President of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity & Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China

He holds a PhD degree in engineering and the professional title of professor and PhD supervisor. Prior to joining the MEE, He was the vice president of Chengdu University of Technology and the vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress. He served as the vice minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (superseded by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment in 2018) from March 2016 to April 2020. He has been committed to scientific research in areas of geological engineering and geological environmental protection. In 2018, he was awarded the Hans Cloos Medal by the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG).



PANEL 1

**ON CONSERVING, RESTORING AND
SUSTAINABLY USING NATURE**

PANEL 1 MODERATOR

Ms. Monica Medina

Assistant Secretary Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Previously, Assistant Secretary Medina was an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. She was also a Senior Associate on the Stephenson Ocean Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Co-Founder and Publisher of Our Daily Planet, an e-newsletter on conservation and the environment. A former Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, she served as General Counsel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.



PANEL 1: SPEAKER

H.E. Mr. Lee White CBE

Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea and Environment of Gabon, charged with Climate Planning and Land-use

Professor Lee White is the Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea and Environment, in charge of Climate Planning and Land-use Plan (Gabon). He is also an honorary Professor at the University of Stirling and was awarded a CBE in 2011 for services to conservation in Central Africa. His career in the West and Central African forest belt spans 35 years. He has been Director of the Gabonese National Parks Agency for ten years, driving its development as a para-military force working alongside the army and the police to ensure sound governance of natural resources and to stop all forms of ivory trafficking, illegal fisheries, illegal gold mining and forestry as well as other forms of trafficking.

Professor White holds a PhD on forestry's impact on wildlife and climate change (Zoology) from the University of Edinburgh. As a scientist, he has published over 100 scientific articles and book chapters and authored and edited more than 15 books on the ecology and conservation of the African rain forest. He has lived in Gabon for more than 30 years and became a Gabonese citizen in 2008.



PANEL 1: SPEAKER

Ms. Razan al Mubarak

President The International Union for Conservation of Nature

Razan Al Mubarak is a United Arab Emirates native who for more than twenty years has played a vital role in guiding her country toward a more sustainable future while spearheading progressive environmental protection and species conservation globally. Her diverse experience leading the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, the largest environmental regulatory agency in the Middle East, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, an international philanthropic organization supporting species conservation projects worldwide, and Emirates Nature – WWF, a Dubai-based NGO focused on citizen engagement, earned her recognition as one of the top 100 Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum in 2018. In September 2021 at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France, Razan was elected president of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Currently, as President of IUCN, Razan Al Mubarak is responsible for implementing the vision, mission, and strategy of the organization, which represents over 1,400 members, including states, government agencies and non-government organizations from 160 countries.



PANEL 1: SPEAKER

Mr. Cristián Samper

President & CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society

Cristián Samper has served as President & Chief Executive Officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) since August 2012. WCS is one of the largest environmental non-profit organizations in the world, established in 1895 to save wildlife and wild places. Prior to joining WCS, Dr. Samper served as Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History for a decade, managing the largest museum collection in the world. He also served as Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Deputy Director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. He was the founding director of the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, the national biodiversity research institute for Colombia. Dr. Samper served as chair of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical & Technological Advice of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity where he helped develop a global strategy for plant conservation and launched the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He also served as a Vice-Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and as a member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). He is a member of the Council on Foreign Affairs and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Samper grew up in Colombia, studied Biology from the Universidad de Los Andes, and earned an MA and PhD from Harvard University where he was awarded the Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Teaching. Cristián is currently Principal Advisor for Nature at the Bezos Earth Fund. In October 2022, Dr. Samper will step down as WCS President & CEO to become the Managing Director and Leader of Nature Solutions at the Bezos Earth Fund.



PANEL 1: SPEAKER

Ms. Valérie Courtois

Director, Indigenous Leadership Initiative, a partner with Enduring Earth in the Indigenous-led PFP proposal in NWT, Canada

Valérie Courtois is a registered professional forester who specializes in Indigenous issues, forest ecology and ecosystem-based management and planning. She is a member of the Innu community of Mashteuiatsh, located on the shore of Peikuakami, or Lac-St-Jean, in what is now known as Québec. Courtois holds a degree in forestry sciences from the Université de Moncton. She has served as a forestry advisor for the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador, forestry planner for the Innu Nation, and as a consultant in Aboriginal forestry, including certification and spatial planning, and caribou planning. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for this work, including as a Labradorian of Distinction, a distinguished alumnus of the Forestry Faculty of the University of Moncton and most recently received an Honorary Doctorate in Laws (honoris causa) from the University of Guelph. Courtois has been the Director of the Indigenous Leadership Initiative since 2013. In addition to her work in conservation and planning, Courtois is an avid photographer. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Corporation du Mushuau-nipi, a non-profit that encourages cultural and professional exchanges between Innu and other cultures on the George River. She lives in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador.



**LEADERS' LANDMARK CALL TO SAVE OUR
LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND ACHIEVE A
NATURE POSITIVE WORLD BY 2030**

Continued

STATEMENT

H.E. Mr. Olaf Scholz

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Coming from northern Germany has been the Federal Chancellor of Germany since December 2021, leading the country's first "traffic light" coalition in Federal Government (the nickname is based on the parties' colours). Olaf Scholz already knew the government district in Berlin well, having previously served as Federal Minister of Finance (2018-2021), Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs (2009-2011), and as a Member of the German Bundestag. He was also Hamburg's First Mayor from 2011 until 2018. Olaf Scholz studied law and worked as a lawyer until 1998.



STATEMENT

H.E. Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan

Prime Minister of Kingdom of Bhutan since November 2019 and a practicing Urologist, consultant surgeon. He has an MBA from University of Canberra, Australia and is a Urology fellow of Wisconsin Medical College Hospital. Completed General Surgery from Dhaka University. Formerly worked as the head of surgical department and consultant surgeon at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital and also headed His Majesty's Medical Unit. Became the President of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa, the ruling party in 2018. A recipient of His Majesty's Druk Thuksey medal in 2017 and the prestigious Lungmar scarf in 2020 for outstanding effort to safeguard the country from COVID-19 pandemic including by heading His Majesty's Kidu Medical Unit.



STATEMENT

H.E. Ms. Jacinda Ardern Timmermann

Prime Minister of New Zealand

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was born in the city of Hamilton, New Zealand, and grew up rurally. She attended high school before graduating from the University of Waikato with a Bachelor of Communication Studies in Politics and Public Relations. Post-university, she worked as an advisor in the office of then-Prime Minister Helen Clark, in London for the Government Cabinet Office and as an Assistant Director in the Department for Business and Enterprise, and on a review of Policing in England and Wales. The Prime Minister joined the New Zealand Labour Party at age 18 and entered New Zealand's Parliament in 2008. Over her twelve years as a representative she has been a strong advocate for children, women, and the right of every New Zealander to have meaningful work. She became the MP for the Auckland electorate Mt Albert in early 2017, and the Leader of the Labour Party in August 2017. As well as Prime Minister, she holds the roles of Minister for National Security and Intelligence, and Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, an issue particularly close to her heart. She is also the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.



PANEL 2

**ON GREENING AND BLUING FINANCE
AND FINANCING GREEN AND BLUE**

PANEL 2: MODERATOR

Ms. Usha Rao Monari

Associate Administrator United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Ms. Rao-Monari has over 30 years of investment experience and has held several senior positions, particularly in the infrastructure area. She previously served as Senior Adviser to Blackstone's Infrastructure Group, as Chief Executive Officer of Global Water Development Partners, a Blackstone portfolio company, and held several senior positions, notably as Director of the Sustainable Business Advisory Group at the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group.

She has until recently served on the Boards of a number of organisations in the field of sustainable development and has held a number of Board and advisory positions in the areas of water, natural capital, biodiversity and environment. Ms. Rao-Monari holds a Master's degree in International Affairs and Finance, School of International and Public Affairs/School of Business, Columbia University, New York, a Master's degree in Management Studies, Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management, Mumbai, India and a B.A. Honors Economics, Delhi University, New Delhi.



PANEL 2: STATEMENT

H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Ursula von der Leyen was Minister at federal level in Germany for more than 14 years and responsible for family, then labor and social affairs and later defence. In 2019, she was elected as President of the European Commission. As the head of the European executive, she has defined six headline ambitions for Europe for her mandate: a European Green Deal, a Europe fit for the digital age, an economy that works for people, a stronger Europe in the world, promoting our European way of life, and a new push for European democracy.



PANEL 2: SPEAKER

CEO Ms Carole Laible

CEO of Domini Impact Investments

Carole Laible is the CEO of Domini Impact Investments. She has over twenty years of impact investing experience, having joined Domini in 1997. Ms. Laible has spearheaded Domini's pioneering work on systems-level issues and stability. This systems approach includes the Domini Forest Project, which recognizes that forests provide significant value to investors, corporations, Indigenous Peoples, and biodiversity, including as a crucial part of the climate system, and investors' policies and practices can impact forests both positively and negatively. Ms. Laible has also been active in the fossil fuel divestment movement. She has supported divestment outreach and advocacy efforts, especially those related to the NYS Common Retirement Fund. Carole serves as a founding member of Sustainability Accounting Standards Board™ (SASB)™ Investor Advisory Group, now known as the ISSB Investor Advisory Group, engaging with companies on the use of SASB metrics. She works to support diversity in the field of finance, including as a Global Angel member of 100 Women in Finance. Ms. Laible holds a B.S. in accountancy from St. John's University.



PANEL 2: SPEAKER

Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez

CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

Lawyer by profession, politician by choice, and conservationist at heart, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez was elected as CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility by its governing body, the GEF Council, in June 2020. The former Costa Rican Environment and Energy Minister was a pioneer in the development of Payment for Ecosystem Services initiatives and strategies for forest restoration, ocean conservation, and de-carbonization, and is an internationally recognized expert on environmental policy, multilateral environmental negotiations, and financing for nature conservation. During his three terms as Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica doubled the size of its forests, made its electric sector 100 percent clean and renewable, and consolidated a National Park System that has positioned the Central American country as a prime ecotourism destination.



PANEL 2: SPEAKER

Mr. Ambroise Fayolle

Vice President, European Investment Bank

Ambroise is responsible for climate action and environment, development policy, and oversees EIB activities in France, Germany, and countries in Africa. He spent most of his career in various positions at the French Treasury Department and at the IMF and World Bank before moving to EIB.



PANEL 2: SPEAKER

Ms. Lisa Martin

CPSM, C.P.M is Senior Vice President, Global Procurement and Chief Procurement Officer for global biopharma company, GSK.

Lisa Martin, CPSM, C.P.M is Senior Vice President, Global Procurement and Chief Procurement Officer for global biopharma company, GSK. She leads procurement of all externally purchased goods and services, totalling over £9 billion per year. Lisa also leads Worldwide Real Estate and Facilities across all of GSK's 287 sites, with a budget of over £350 million. Lisa is part of to The Sustainable Procurement Pledge to improve responsible sourcing practices amongst procurement professionals. She is also an inclusion and diversity advocate, sponsoring Employee Resource Groups, leading diverse recruitment efforts and driving increased spending with diverse suppliers. Before joining GSK, Lisa was CPO of Teva Pharmaceuticals. Lisa has held roles at Pfizer, Warner Lambert, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Columbia Pictures Entertainment and NBC. In 2013, Lisa was awarded the prestigious J. Shipman Gold Medal Award for distinguished service to the supply management profession. Lisa is Chairperson Emeritus of the Institute for Supply Management. She earned a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, in communications and psychology from Long Island University C.W. Post College, New York.



PANEL 2: KEYNOTE

H.E. Ms. Bérangère Couillard

Minister of State for Ecology of France

Bérangère Couillard was born in Rennes, France. She has a Master degree in Marketing and Sales from the Institute of Management of Rennes. After her studies, she pursued a career in the food industry and then in the textile sector near Bordeaux, France. In 2017, she joined « En Marche » the French political movement created by Emmanuel Macron. In June 2017, she was elected MP in the national assembly and then reelected in 2022. In the national assembly, she handled the mission of recorder for the Transport Law, a major law of the first president Macron's five-year term, which aims at modernizing the French public and private transports and at making them cleaner and more sustainable. At the same time, she wrote and was recorder of a law to protect from domestic violence, definitively adopted in July 2020. Since September 2021, she is a member of the French High Council for Gender Equality's (HCE). In the national assembly, she is also a member of the French Sustainable Development and Country Planning committee, a member of the French Gender Equality Delegation and was designated spokeswoman for « La République en March » in the national assembly. In 2022, she was in charge of Gender Equality topics for the President's national campaign and wrote the gender equality part of the program. The 4th of July 2022, Bérangère Couillard was appointed Minister of State for Ecology. She is now in charge of biodiversity, wild animal welfare, water, waste processing, and forest.



**LEADERS' LANDMARK CALL TO SAVE OUR
LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND ACHIEVE A
NATURE POSITIVE WORLD BY 2030**

Continued

STATEMENT

Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

Prime Minister of Fiji

Frank Bainimarama has been the Fijian Prime Minister since 2007. Under his leadership, Fiji has undergone a broad program of social, economic, electoral and constitutional reforms, leading up to the establishment of Fiji's first genuine parliamentary democracy of equal votes of equal value in 2014. He enlisted into the Royal Fiji Military Forces Naval Division as an Ordinary Seaman in 1975. He held the position of Commander of the Royal Fiji Military Forces for 15 years. He retired from the Military on 5th March, 2014, after 39 years of service at the rank of Rear-Admiral.



STATEMENT

H.E. Mr. Anthony Albanese

MP, Prime Minister of Australia

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP was sworn in as Australia's 31st Prime Minister on 23 May 2022. Anthony Albanese previously served as Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House of Representatives. As Infrastructure Minister and Communications Minister, he delivered nation-building projects, connecting the country through thousands of kilometres of roads and rail, and rolling out the high-speed fibre National Broadband Network. He was widely recognised for his ability to bring stakeholders, businesses, and communities together to deliver projects that boosted the economy, enhanced productivity, and improved Australia's quality of life. Anthony was first elected to the Australian Parliament as the member for the Sydney seat of Grayndler in 1996. In 2019, he was unanimously elected as the Leader of the Australian Labor Party. Anthony grew up with his mother, Maryanne, in a council house in Sydney. As he watched his mum juggling the challenges of life on a disability pension, Anthony came to understand the power of a parent's love in the face of hardship – and the power of government to change lives for the better. This knowledge still drives him today – both as Prime Minister and as a father – as he works to building a stronger Australia to hand to his son Nathan's generation.



STATEMENT

H.E. Mr. Sauli Niinistö

President of the Republic of Finland

Sauli Niinistö is the 12th President of the Republic of Finland. He took office on March 2012 and was re-elected for another term in January 2018. Sauli Niinistö was first elected to Parliament in 1987 and served as Minister of Justice 1995-1996 and Minister of Finance 1996-2003. In 2003, he took up the post of Vice President of the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg. He returned to the Finnish Parliament in the 2007 and served as the Speaker of Parliament until 2011. President Niinistö has a Bachelor of Laws degree from University of Turku.



CLOSING SEGMENT

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Inger Anderson

Executive Director, UN Environmental Program

Inger Andersen is Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. Between 2015 and 2019, Ms. Andersen was the Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Ms. Andersen has more than 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability, strategy and operations. For 15 years at The World Bank, Ms. Andersen held several leadership positions including Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa; Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council. Prior to the World Bank, Ms. Andersen worked for 12 years on drought, desertification; and water management at the United Nations including at the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office and UNDP.



CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Elizabeth Mrema

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema is the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She has worked with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for over two decades and was the Director of Law Division at UNEP. Prior to that, she was Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, in charge of coordination, operations and programme delivery. She also served as Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Her work at UNEP has focused on development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, including multilateral environmental agreements at national, regional and international levels.



CLOSING REMARKS

The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith

Minister of State (Minister for the Pacific and the International Environment) of the United Kingdom

From 1995 to 1996, Zac worked for the California-based environmental economics thinktank Redefining Progress, before working for the non-profit International Society for Ecology and Culture. In 1998, Zac became editor of the Ecologist magazine. Zac was first elected as Member of Parliament for his home seat of Richmond Park and North Kingston in 2010. He was also a member of the Environmental Audit Committee for nearly a decade.

In March 2018, Zac helped to coordinate the international illegal wildlife trade conference which was held in London in October. In July 2019, Zac was appointed as the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for International Development. Zac's responsibilities included climate change, international environment, the illegal wildlife trade, forests and animal welfare. Later in September 2019, Zac was promoted to Minister of State for: the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and the Department for International Development. Zac now sits in the House of Lords and continues as Minister. Outside of his political work, Zac has raised significant funds for a wide range of conservation and environmental campaigns.



PRESENTED BY



CO-HOSTS



BHUTAN

Canada

CANADA



GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA



COSTA RICA



República del Ecuador

ECUADOR



EUROPEAN UNION



FRANCE



GABON



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

GERMANY



NIGERIA



United Kingdom Mission to the UN

UNITED KINGDOM



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PARTNERS

