



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
29 July 2024

Original: English

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## Seventy-ninth session

Item 18 (h) of the provisional agenda\*

### Sustainable development

## Harmony with Nature

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/169](#). The report outlines recent efforts to advance an Earth-centred approach to sustainable development at both the national and international levels, including highlighting the interactive dialogue among Member States, independent experts and stakeholders convened by the President of the General Assembly to discuss the possibility of convening an “Earth Assembly” and showcasing the ongoing efforts by Governments and stakeholders to convene national Earth Assemblies. The report further highlights the international growth in rights of Nature legislation, jurisprudence, scholarship and education and contains recommendations for deepening attention to Earth-centred approaches for acceleration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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\* [A/79/150](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/169. In response to requests from Member States, the report outlines recent efforts to advance an Earth-centred approach to sustainable development at both the national and international levels.
2. The report presents highlights of the interactive dialogue among Member States, independent experts and stakeholders, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 24 April 2023 to discuss the possibility of convening and the scope of a high-level meeting, tentatively entitled “Earth Assembly”, showcasing how this and other United Nations interactive dialogues on Harmony have contributed to accelerating sustainable development and a non-anthropocentric or Earth-centred approach.
3. It further showcases the ongoing efforts to convene national Earth Assemblies and the growing legislative and judicial recognition of the rights of Nature,<sup>1</sup> outlining the potential of these national-level efforts to influence global-level change. International growth in rights of Nature scholarship and education is also discussed.
4. Based on the analysis of efforts to date, the report outlines recommendations on concrete actions that would help Member States and the United Nations system to leverage an Earth-centred approach to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## II. Highlights from the 2023 interactive dialogue on the format and scope of the Earth Assembly at the international level

5. The President of the General Assembly convened the 2023 dialogue on the theme “The possibility of convening and the scope of an Earth Assembly High-Level Meeting”<sup>2</sup> on 24 April 2023 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/169. At the opening session, remarks were delivered by the President of the General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi; the Deputy Prime Minister of Spain, Teresa Ribera; the Minister of State for Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, Sônia Guajajara; the then Minister of Water Resources of Nigeria, Suleiman Adamu; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Navid Hanif, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Junhua Li. The opening session concluded with general statements by Member States and other relevant stakeholders.
6. The afternoon session consisted of two panels. The first panel addressed the need to convene an Earth Assembly. It featured Joaquín Nieto, Vice-President of the Association for Human Rights of Spain and of the International Federation for Human Rights; Jeong-hwan Shin, Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea; Jorge Calderón Gamboa, former Senior Coordinating Attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Visiting Professor of Human Rights at the University for Peace mandated by the United Nations; Erik Gómez-Baggethun, Professor of Environmental Governance, Norwegian University of Life Sciences and President-elect of the International Society for Ecological Economics; and Rodrigo Míguez Núñez, Associate Professor of Private Law, University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy, and lead researcher of the

<sup>1</sup> The capitalization of Nature was recognized in and incorporated into General Assembly resolutions: 77/169, preambulars 19, 28 and 31; 75/220, preambular 28; 73/235, preambular 29, and previous reports A/74/236, A/75/266 and A/77/244.

<sup>2</sup> Full presentations and interventions available at <http://harmonywithnatureun.org/dialogues/>.

European Commission project “Speak for Nature: Interdisciplinary Approaches on Ecological Justice”.

7. The second panel examined the scope of an Earth Assembly. It featured Helena Dolabela, Social Anthropologist, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and Catalina Vallejo, Professor of Public International Law, EAFIT University, Colombia; Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec-Labrador, and Mr. Jean-Charles Piétacho, Chief of the Innu Council of Ekuanitshit, First Nations, North Quebec; Hans Leo Bader, urban developer, Germany, and Elena Ewering, Research Assistant and Ph.D. candidate, University of Kassel, Germany; and Juliana Neira, Ph.D. candidate in Community Development and Applied Economics, and Nina Smolyar, Ph.D. candidate, Rubenstein School, Graduate Fellows, Gund Institute for Environment, Leadership for the Eozoic and Institute for Agroecology, University of Vermont, United States of America.

8. Each panel was followed by an interactive dialogue with Member States, independent experts and other relevant stakeholders. The participants celebrated advances towards a non-anthropocentric or Earth-centred paradigm, highlighting developments in legislation, policy, ecological economics, education and public engagement worldwide.

9. The United Nations interactive dialogues on Harmony with Nature have played a significant role in accelerating sustainable development by informing policymakers about approaches that promote a holistic integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It has been more than a decade since the initial dialogue, and their impact has been paramount as the planet confronts unprecedented challenges to its well-being. The pressing need for a collective solution and collaborative strategies necessitates ongoing interactive discussions on this subject.

10. The dialogue provides a platform to discuss the climate crisis as a multidimensional systemic crisis with profound implications and raises awareness about the urgent collective responsibility in transitioning towards sustainable production and consumption patterns that address the social and environmental needs both of present and future natural and human generations. This transition entails shifting away from short-term profit and economic growth as the primary drivers of development and embracing a holistic approach to sustainable development that is in harmony with Nature and thus prioritizes the well-being of the Earth.

11. Furthermore, it is often the most vulnerable populations, who have contributed the least to climate change, that bear the brunt of its impacts. Thus, it is imperative to integrate the vulnerabilities and structural challenges confronted by developing countries into the decision-making processes of finance, policy and planning. The dialogues emphasized the need to strengthen support for developing countries through robust cooperation, the provision of both financial and non-financial resources, the advancement of scientific knowledge, technology transfer, capacity-building and the promotion of a universal, rule-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system.

12. Discussions on the transition from short-term profit driven consumption and production to sustainability underscored the need for this transition to be embedded within the framework of Earth-centred law. Given that the law forms the foundation of a society, and individual laws shape the rights and responsibilities of its citizens, the legal system plays a pivotal role in driving the societal transformation towards living in harmony with Nature. Consequently, there is a pressing need for legal innovations that shift the focus from a human-centred perspective to one that is more ecocentric. This entails recognizing the Earth as a subject with rights and respecting those intrinsic rights.

13. Speakers stressed that a United Nations Earth Assembly would advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing Member States with an opportunity to present innovative proposals, and by fostering reconnection with one another and with Mother Earth. The Assembly would play a crucial role in highlighting essential international elements that contribute to enhancing Harmony with Nature. Moreover, the Assembly would strengthen collaboration with Indigenous Peoples on protecting Mother Earth and create a synergy of historical wisdom and contemporary knowledge. While the majority of participating Member States supported the creation of an Earth Assembly, some expressed concerns about terminology describing the event and about duplicating efforts. However, most speakers believed that a non-anthropocentric Assembly would strengthen the work of relevant United Nations bodies rather than create redundancy.

14. As to the growing dedication to achieving social and ecological justice and sustainable development, speakers emphasized that rights of Nature provides not only a legal framework but also promotes justice. The separation between humans and Nature in society has facilitated abuse and inequity. Speakers emphasized that Nature should no longer be valued based on its economic worth or utility to humans and instead should be recognized as the source and support system of all life and as intrinsically valuable. Acknowledging Nature as a bearer of rights is crucial. Ecosystems and natural communities should at least be granted the right to exist, be preserved and be restored to preserve all life and thereby ensure that humans can live well with Nature, permanently.

15. The discussions drew attention to court decisions in many countries that have recognized and enforced Nature's rights and influenced administrative and legislative processes. These rulings have focused on ecosystems that have been harmed or violated, drawing attention to their preservation and restoration. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights provides a regional example of the growing trend towards recognizing the Rights of Nature. Speakers emphasized the ability of courts to solidify a biocentric perspective on Nature's Rights in response to the climate emergency.

16. Attention was also given to the need to incorporate Rights of Nature not only within the legal framework but across all systems. This entails aligning the political, economic and societal objectives of States and communities with the life cycles and laws derived from natural systems. True Harmony with Nature and the restoration of balance in human existence on the planet can be achieved only by mobilizing the entire society towards an ecocentric vision. A paradigm shift also requires accompanying educational efforts where engagement of youth would be important as well as raising public awareness.

17. In addition, speakers urged Member States to acknowledge the significance of safeguarding ecosystems through the establishment of a universal declaration of the rights of Nature, which would recognize the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of legal systems in ensuring justice for Nature. In the twenty-first century, the focus should be on transitioning towards a new generation of rights that protect and serve justice not only to humans but also to Nature. Society has undergone paradigm shifts throughout history, and speakers believed that now was the opportune moment to expand human rights and embrace the rights of Nature.

18. Speakers noted that the proposed United Nations Earth Assembly's goals should include establishing a new universal declaration of the rights of Nature and urged that the Assembly would provide a vital opportunity to showcase and discuss worldwide initiatives and would also serve as a platform to foster global transformation by seeking common solutions. Academics and researchers from various disciplines would play a pivotal role in this endeavour, and their preliminary meetings could draft

documents, principles, including guidelines and even preliminary drafts of the universal declaration of the rights of Nature.

19. Multiple stakeholders highlighted the importance of promoting dialogue as a critical factor in generating inventive resolutions for building viable pathways towards a sustainable future. It was suggested that meetings be organized in a hybrid format to enhance inclusivity and that, furthermore, establishing various committees with specific objectives prior to the meetings could help facilitate the achievement of desired outcomes. In addition, stakeholders highlighted that documentation of these dialogues or meetings could significantly impact ecological justice and the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

20. Stakeholders advocated the integration of human rights and the rights of Nature as central elements in a system which would necessitate a shift in incentives for both public and private actors. The diversity of speakers reflected the expanding influence of the interactive dialogues and the coalescence of various groups and organizations working together to protect life on Earth for all species and seeking social and ecological justice by embracing the reality that the well-being of humans and Nature are one.

### III. Establishment of national Earth assemblies

21. The growing establishment of National Earth Assemblies<sup>3</sup> is a reflection of the growing demand for a global shift to an ecocentric or Earth-centred paradigm in law, economics and governance.

22. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the nation's Vice-Presidency published an open letter to the Governments and peoples of the world in 2022 calling for creation of a United Nations Earth assembly to discuss, from a non-anthropocentric and cosmobiocentric perspective, the solutions to the multiple planetary crises in the context of living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has continued to work to achieve the life horizon of living well as the main objective enshrined in the 2009 Constitution. The Vice-President also published *Geopolítica del Vivir Bien* ("Geopolitics of Living Well"), in which he calls for worldwide transition from anthropocentrism to cosmobiocentrism, enshrining Nature in the centre of national and international politics and life.

23. In 2023, during the Suprastate Parliamentary Assembly, regional parliaments such as the Andean Parliament, the Amazonian Parliament, the Interparliamentary Union and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, promoted a resolution supporting the convening of a United Nations assembly of Mother Earth. The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia launched the first *Vivir Bien* ("Living Well") report, building on its own methodology based on the Geopolitics of Living Well to assess the progress towards and challenges to living well in the country from a cosmobiocentric perspective. The following year, at the twenty-third session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Vice-presidency launched the "Plural Wisdoms of Indigenous and Native People Towards a Cosmobiocentric World from the Codes of Living Well" platform. It collects and documents the principles, rules and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples about living in harmony with Mother Earth.

24. In Brazil, the Second Brazilian Forum for the Rights of Nature, also known as the Earth Assembly Brazil, was held on 6 and 7 October 2023 in Ilhéus, Bahia.<sup>4</sup> The

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/rightsOfNature/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://forumdireitosdanatureza.org.br/sobre/>.

Assembly was hosted by the National Articulation for the Rights of Nature-Mother Earth, a Brazilian initiative created in 2019 by collaborating institutions from academia and civil society, which joined together to foster recognition of the Rights of Nature. The initiative reflects the important role of academia in fostering the urgent paradigm shift from an anthropocentric to a non-anthropocentric or Earth-centred paradigm. Earth Assembly Brazil was attended by more than 300 participants, approximately 20 Indigenous communities, 10 Brazilian legislators, 250 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and collectives and representatives from 23 universities.

25. The Assembly supported the creation of the United Nations Earth Assembly, as recommended in resolution General Assembly resolution [77/169](#), and it made concrete recommendations on advancing the rights of Nature in Brazil by: initiating consultations with the Foreign Ministry of Brazil regarding the creation of a United Nations Earth Assembly; engaging civil society consultations in advocating for an Earth-centred approach to sustainable development; and beginning preparations for attending the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held in Brazil in 2025, advocating for the rights of Nature as part of the climate agenda.

26. In Canada, the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec-Labrador recognized the legal personhood of the St. Lawrence River. This decision was made in an Earth Assembly that brought together the 11 Indigenous Nations of Quebec-Labrador in Canada. The resolution was presented at the 2023 United Nations interactive dialogue. In the resolution, the Assembly of First Nations recognized the central role of the river in the identity, history, culture and economy of First Nations and also recognized themselves as the ancestral guardians of the lands and waters. Adoption of the resolution resulted, in part, from the works of the International Observatory for the Rights of Nature, which is building an alliance for the protection of the river. The Alliance includes 2 important research centres, 18 municipalities along the river, a workers' union and 10 NGOs. In late 2022, acting at the behest of the Alliance, federal and provincial Members of Parliament proposed parallel legislation recognizing the legal status and rights of the St. Lawrence River.

27. In France, the “Towards a Loire Parliament”<sup>5</sup> initiative was launched in 2020–2021 with a dozen public hearings to debate the hypothesis of the legal personality of the Loire. Since 2022, this initiative has been led by a collective of 10 organizations representing a cross section of political, cultural and scientific fields. In 2023, this collective wrote the Loire Manifesto and expanded its membership to include local communities. The Loire Parliament aims to pursue the recognition of a legal personality for the Loire as a living entity by drafting a declaration of the rights of the Loire and the creation of an association of other-than-humans (2024–2025). In 2024, “Towards a Parliament for the Loire” aims to become a network association for the Earth Assembly France.

28. In Germany, the process of developing a national German contribution to the proposed United Nations Earth Assembly began in the fourth quarter of 2023 through collaboration between the civil society organization “Rechte der Natur – Das Volksbegehren Bayern” (“Rights of Nature – The Bavarian Referendum”) and the University of Kassel. In addition, many scholars, practitioners and universities, such as the Universities of Tuebingen, Kassel, Hamburg and Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg and institutions such as the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, as well as the German Network for Rights

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<sup>5</sup> <https://polau.org/parlement-de-loire>.

of Nature, are working to advance recognition of the rights of Nature, including by establishing the Earth Assembly Germany.

29. In Ireland, in February 2022, the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss was formally established as one of four Citizens' Assemblies contained in the Programme for Government, *Our Shared Future*. The Assembly consisted of 100 members, including 99 members of the public, randomly selected from households throughout Ireland, and an independent Chairperson, Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabhaáin. At its final meeting, on 21 January 2023, the Assembly voted on a series of recommendations, including one in which it called for a referendum on the incorporation of the rights of Nature into the national constitution. These recommendations were forwarded to the Irish Parliament, where they received extensive cross-party support. Consequently, there is now a mandate for the Government to "let the people decide" to become the first European State to embrace these rights in the national constitution.

30. Mexico City held a Mother Earth Summit from 17 to 19 May 2024. The Summit, which paid homage to the Guardians of Nature, was hosted by the Law Faculty of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and Huerto Roma Verde community centre and biosocial laboratory working in close collaboration with Earth Law Center Mexico and several environmental organizations and academic institutions. Allied legislators, actively involved in the Summit, presented a constitutional reform initiative to include the rights of Nature in the Constitution of the State of Mexico, which was approved on 22 April 2024. All these efforts were undertaken in support of the Earth Assembly Mexico and the Council of Guardians of Nature.

31. In the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in 2024, the Rights of Nature Foundation was launched to create the Earth Assembly Netherlands. The Foundation, in collaboration with other national actors, is promoting two national law proposals: one to embed the rights of Nature in the Constitution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; the second to recognize the legal personhood of the Wadden Sea. The Foundation is supported by former Minister of the Environment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Jan Pronk, who served in various United Nations positions and is a staunch supporter of the rights of Nature.<sup>6</sup>

32. In Nigeria, at the twenty-ninth meeting of the National Technical Committee on Water Resources, the process of creating an Earth Assembly Nigeria was started in January 2023 by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, which adopted the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers and is currently being considered by the National Assembly; and, at the 2023 interactive dialogue, Mr. Adamu, the then Minister of Water Resources, stated that:

We have witnessed an era where existing laws and institutions have not been fully empowered to protect our environment. It is therefore required of us to explore new approaches on Earth-centred paradigm through creation of a future Earth Assembly process working closely with relevant ... efforts that are taking place by the Federal Government of Nigeria to mobilize relevant stakeholders in the Academia and Environment for the creation of a Nigerian Earth Assembly.

33. In Spain, on 30 September 2022, the Parliament adopted Law 19/2022, recognizing the legal personhood of the Mar Menor lagoon in Murcia and its basin, which thereby became the first ecosystem in Europe with its own rights. This resulted from a campaign led by Teresa Vicente, who was the Europe winner of the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize for her work on the initiative, in which she championed the recognition of the rights of the Mar Menor.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=py10hHBm3vw&t=7s>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/teresa-vicente/>.

34. At the subnational level, on 1 March 2024, the Serra de Outes City Council (Galicia) unanimously approved the Declaration of Rights of the Tins River, which recognizes the river as a subject of rights within the Municipality of Outes, making it the first river in Spain whose rights are officially recognized. Furthermore, several initiatives are building the necessary steps towards Earth Assembly Spain called “Walking towards the United Nations Earth Assembly”.

35. In September 2023, the Conference of Rectors of Latin America and the Caribbean titled “Leadership and sustainable university governance. Towards the 2023 Agenda”, held by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean in Madrid was followed in December 2023 by the First University Forum “SDGs, Agenda 2030 and the Rights of Nature: walking towards the Earth Assembly”, held at the University of Murcia. In June 2024 the University of Valencia hosted the third International Congress on the Rights of Mediterranean Nature: South-South Dialogue. This gathering emphasized the diagnosis and crafting of solutions based on law and economics and focused on the potential of Earth jurisprudence as a powerful tool to reimagine the path forward. In September 2024, the University of the Basque Country will host a summer course on biotechnology, biomedicine and biomimesis in harmony with Nature. This event will also address the establishment of the Earth Assembly Spain.

#### **IV. Recent legislative and judicial recognition of the rights of Nature**

36. The proliferation of Earth Assemblies continues to be demonstrated by the adoption of new rights of Nature laws, inter alia, worldwide, reflecting a widening of the categories of natural entities with recognized rights.<sup>8</sup> Each of the cases is rooted in its own social, cultural and legal context, and they share common elements. They are all being recognized as living entities with whom humans have a complementarity relationship, further illustrating the interdependence between human rights and the rights of Nature.

37. The development of Earth jurisprudence is a cohesive global effort ongoing in different contexts. Its evolution takes different pathways, with varying terminology depending on the work’s sociocultural and legal settings. However, drawing from the intimate relationship between the natural world and both Indigenous Peoples and local communities, terms such as rights of Nature, legal personhood or ecological justice are all variations on the same theme: the recognition that Mother Earth must be respected as the source and support of all life, as well as the recognition of her right to exist, persist and be restored.

38. In Brazil, over the past two years, rights of Nature legislation has been adopted by multiple municipalities. In July 2022, the Municipality of Serro (Minas Gerais) recognized the rights of Nature. In April 2023, the Municipality of Guajará-Mirim (Amazon) recognized the rights of Nature, and, on 5 June, the rights of the Laje River were recognized. The latter was proposed and supported by Indigenous Councilman Francisco Oro Waram, supported by Indigenous Councilman Wen Cacami, and the NGOs Comvida and Mapas.

39. In July, the Municipality of José de Freitas (Piauí) included the rights of Nature in its Organic Law. The proposal was formalized as a project to amend the Organic Law by the councillor of the Municipality in collaboration with other high-level officials. In October, the Municipality of Alagoa Nova (Paraíba) adopted legislation

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<sup>8</sup> Available at <http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org/rightsOfNature/>.



recognizing the rights of Nature. In December, the Municipality of Alto Paraguai (Mato Grosso) included the rights of Nature in its Organic Law recognizing the principle of harmony with Nature and the Rights of Nature. In November, the State of Piauí created State Nature Day through Law 8.199/2023.

40. In May 2024, the municipality of Rondonópolis (Mato Grosso) passed a law recognizing the rights of Nature and creating the Harmony with Nature Week and Municipal Award. The initiative came from the Mayor, José Carlos do Pátio, and prior studies for the bill were promoted by lawyers and professors Mariana Santiago (University of Marília-São Paulo) and Everton Neves dos Santos (University of Mato Grosso), together with an important number of national institutions. In the same month, the Mosquito River (Minas Gerais) was recognized as a subject with rights, and, in June 2024, the municipality of Goiás (Goiás) recognized the River Vermelho as a subject with rights. The latter was proposed by Councilwoman Elenízia da Mata de Jesus, supported by the NGO Mapas. The sea waves of the mouth of the River Doce (Espírito Santo) and Serra do Itambé (Mato Grosso) were recognized as subjects with rights in June and July, respectively.

41. On 4 June 2024, the Federal Deputy, Célia Xakriabá, one of the first Indigenous woman elected to the National Congress in Brazil, proposed an amendment to the Federal Constitution of Brazil. She was supported by the National Articulation for the Rights of Nature and the NGO Mapas.

42. In Ecuador, the rights of Nature continue to advance through court cases brought to the Constitutional Court which are at different stages in the Court's processes, such as: Dulcepamba River; Forest Protecting the River Basin of the Nangaritza River; the River Piatúa – ecological river flow; the Fierro Urco case regarding mining on a fragile ecosystem; and the Alambi River, among many others. Most recently, a court ruled that pollution violates the constitutional rights of the Machángara River, which runs through the capital city of Quito, and the city must clean up the river.<sup>9</sup>

43. In addition, Ecuador leads the way in animal rights, with new legislation under debate. Through a historic court ruling, Ecuador became the first country in the world to recognize animals as rights holders. The National Assembly is considering a draft law that could guarantee that the quality of life of these beings will be vastly improved. The judicial decision, which set a positive precedent for animal welfare worldwide, involved a choro monkey named Estrellita, who lived illegally confined for 18 years in a household. The case was decided in 2022, when it was determined that Nature's rights had been violated.<sup>10</sup>

44. Meanwhile legislative efforts continue. The province of Azuay is considering a draft municipal ordinance which combines the right to a healthy environment with the rights of Nature. In August 2023, the population of Ecuador voted through a referendum to halt all current and future oil extraction in Yasuní National Park. The Yasuní, which covers more than 2.5 million acres of land, is designated a world biosphere by UNESCO and is home to the Tagaeri and Taromenani Indigenous Peoples, who have been living in voluntary isolation for hundreds of years.

45. In the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the municipality of Eijsden-Margraten became the nation's first municipality to pass a motion to locally implement the rights of Nature. The motion recognizes legal personality for Nature and states that recognition "can improve attention to and protection of our natural environment and stimulate innovative approaches to sustainability". It also states that in the absence of national legislation to protect Nature, the municipality can play a pioneering role by,

<sup>9</sup> [www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/07/ecuador-court-river-pollution-violates-rights](https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/07/ecuador-court-river-pollution-violates-rights).

<sup>10</sup> [www.vistazo.com/estilo-de-vida/sostenibilidad/victoria-para-animales-ecuador-corte-constitucional-reconoce-son-sujetos-derecho-EX1303611](https://www.vistazo.com/estilo-de-vida/sostenibilidad/victoria-para-animales-ecuador-corte-constitucional-reconoce-son-sujetos-derecho-EX1303611).

inter alia, taking into account the interests of Nature when developing new policies and appointing a guardian who will represent the interests of Nature and ensure that those interests become an integral part of the council decision-making process.

46. In New Caledonia, on 29 June 2023, the Assembly of the Loyalty Islands Province strengthened article 110-3 of the Loyalty Islands Province Environment Code by adopting regulations on the law of living organisms, which make natural entities subjects of law. This is a new category of subjects of law, different from legal persons, that exists neither in France nor in any other overseas territory, recognizing rights of natural entities but sparing them from duties and liabilities. Sharks and turtles are the first to be accorded this new status.

47. In Panama, in June 2022, the National Air and Naval Service created an environmental committee to protect the rights of Nature. In March 2023, a network of conservation organizations drafted a bill, supported by the Ministry of Environment and a number of national organizations, to protect the rights of the sea turtles. Furthermore, two international organizations, The Leatherback Project, in collaboration with the Earth Law Center and the Environmental Commission of the Parliament of Panama developed and proposed a new law regarding the rights of sea turtles. In November 2023, in a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court declared the Cobre Panamá copper mine unconstitutional and referenced the country's groundbreaking Rights of Nature Law 287 under which Nature is recognized as a subject of rights. The Ministry of Environment, with support from The Leatherback Project, drafted a Ministerial Decree creating a new National Wildlife Refuge in the Pearl Islands Archipelago to recognize and defend the rights of Nature, which was signed into effect in June 2024.

48. In Nigeria, in March 2024, the House of Assembly of Delta State Government of Nigeria officially commenced the legislative process for considering a rights of Nature Bill recognizing the personhood and rights of the River Ethiope.

49. In Peru, on 15 March 2024, the city of Loreto declared the Marañón River a rights-holder, a pioneering measure aimed at protecting the river from frequent oil spills from the Norperuano Pipeline. This recognition resulted from a lawsuit filed by the Huaynakana Kamatahuara Kana federation, an Indigenous Kukama women's group. The Marañón River has been granted legal capacity to defend its rights, including the right to flow without pollution and the right to native biodiversity. The ruling allows the river's legal representatives, primarily Indigenous organizations designated as guardians, to use judicial mechanisms to safeguard the river's rights and further stipulates that any project must ensure the Marañón's ecological integrity, respecting its rights to flow and remain uncontaminated.

## **V. Non-anthropocentric or Earth-centred paradigm developments to reinforce multilateralism**

50. Widespread and growing support for the recognition and implementation of non-anthropocentrism has also been demonstrated at recent gatherings of world leaders, Indigenous Peoples, policymakers, scientists and academics, including at conferences under United Nations auspices, as well as by developments in education.

### **A. Multilateral and international frameworks**

51. The tenth session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services held in Bonn, Germany, from 28 August to 2 September 2023, requested:

consideration to addressing and working with Indigenous and local knowledge in the scoping of the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a dedicated chapter of the assessment on different knowledge systems, including, among others: ‘Living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth’, and the incorporation of Indigenous and local knowledge in all chapters.

The final scoping report will be presented for consideration to the plenary in December 2024. It is anticipated that assessment will be considered by the Plenary in 2028.

52. The fourth Meeting of Presidents of the States Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, held on 9 August 2023, brought together the Presidents of Brazil, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization is the only intergovernmental coordination institution tasked with project development to produce equitable and beneficial results for the Amazonian countries. At the Meeting, the Declaration of Belém, containing 113 transversal objectives and principles further acknowledged the recognition of the rights of Nature or Mother Earth.<sup>11</sup>

53. At the third European Union-Community of Caribbean and Latin American States Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Brussels on 17 and 18 July 2023, on the theme “Renewing the biregional partnership to strengthen peace and sustainable development”, the leaders at the Summit adopted a declaration<sup>12</sup> in which they referred to General Assembly resolution 77/169 recognizing “that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home, and that Mother Earth is a common expression in a number of countries and regions”.

54. The Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, acknowledges “the important roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and as partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use” of Nature. It further recognizes that:

Nature embodies different concepts for different people, including biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth, and systems of life. Nature’s contributions to people also embody different concepts, such as ecosystem goods and services and Nature’s gifts. Both Nature and Nature’s contributions to people are vital for human existence and good quality of life, including human well-being, living in harmony with Nature, [and] living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth. The Framework recognizes and considers these diverse value systems and concepts, including, for those countries that recognize them, rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth, as being an integral part of its successful implementation.<sup>13</sup>

55. Colombia will host the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali from 21 October to 1 November 2024. the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Susana Muhamad González, has stated that “Peace with Nature” will be the slogan for the sixteenth meeting. This central message is aligned with principles of Indigenous People in Colombia, who prioritize harmony with Nature, and is also based on the recognition of the current unequal relationships and extractive activities that overexploit the capacities of nature and that raise the need to improve the relationship

<sup>11</sup> <https://otca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Declaracion-de-Belem.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12000-2023-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> <http://files.harmonywithnatureun.org/uploads/upload1298.pdf>.

between humans and ecosystems.<sup>14</sup> The message also contains a call to improve humans' relationship with the environment to rethink an economic model that does not overexploit Nature.

56. Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement promotes international cooperation for meaningful and community-driven climate action and incentivizes much-needed climate finance within a framework of social justice and gender justice. The mechanism is rights-based and ecosystem-focused, rather than market-based and credit-focused.<sup>15</sup> The Glasgow Climate Pact, the outcome document of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, provided a breakthrough on non-market approaches (article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement) by putting operating procedure in place. Building on the Pact, at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt, 6–20 November 2022), article 6.8 was operationalized and entered into implementation mode. At the twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023) a work programme under the framework of article 6.8 was adopted in decision 4/CMA.3 in which the Conference of the Parties “recalls the thirteenth preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement, which notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and notes the importance for some of the concept of ‘climate justice’, when taking action to address climate change”. In the decision, the Conference of the Parties also calls for the further strengthening of a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change web-based platform for non-market approaches and sets the schedule for the work programme prior to and at the fifth meeting of the Glasgow Committee on Non-Market Approaches.<sup>16</sup>

57. At the twenty-eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change also launched the Conference of the Parties presidencies troika, a key achievement of the presidency of the Conference of the Parties mandated by the United Arab Emirates Consensus. It united the twenty-eighth meeting with the next two presidencies of the Conference of the Parties – Azerbaijan and Brazil – to drive ambitious collective climate action. This groundbreaking initiative was undertaken to support “Mission 1.5 degrees Celsius” by maintaining momentum and locking in continuity.<sup>17</sup>

58. At the twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention, to be held in Baku, from 10 to 22 November 2024, it is anticipated that the crisis afflicting the natural world will be prominently featured on the international stage and will retain that prominence because Brazil will host the thirtieth Conference of the Parties in the Amazonian city of Belém do Pará in 2025.

## **B. Interdependence between human rights and rights of Nature and ecocentric economic models**

59. The call for Earth assemblies also reflects rapidly growing recognition of the connection between the pursuit of social, economic and ecological justice, on the one

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Colombia-unveils-COP16-logo-to-the-world-and-sends-a-message-of-Peace-with-Nature.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/610ffde0dd5c39015edc6873/t/665e0ae28316750ab0448159/1717439203150/Article+6.8+-+The+Untapped+Potential+of+Paris%27s+Non-Market+Mechanism.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> <http://harmonywithnatureun.org/rightsOfNaturePolicies/>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Colombia-unveils-COP16-logo-to-the-world-and-sends-a-message-of-Peace-with-Nature.pdf>.

hand, and the pursuit of life in harmony with Nature, on the other. Increasingly, the people and their leaders are understanding what ancient peoples have long known, that we cannot live well, in peace and harmony with one another, unless we also, collectively, respect and preserve Mother Earth, on which all life, including human life, depends. This growing understanding is reflected in the recent work of many international societies and institutions, as well as at a growing number of international congresses and conferences.

60. The International Federation of Human Rights, on the occasion of its forty-first Congress, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the organization, held in October 2022, adopted a resolution recognizing the rights of Nature and their interdependence with human rights.<sup>18</sup> In the resolution, the Federation invites the United Nations and the international community to demand that States recognize the importance of caring for ecosystems and natural communities through a declaration on the rights of Nature, prioritizing respect and reparation for Nature over its manipulation and commodification. It also calls on States to recognize Nature as a subject of rights, to comply with the obligation to fully protect Human Rights and the environment, to respect the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of these rights in their legal systems, and to guarantee their effective enforcement through public policy and jurisdictional mechanisms.

61. On 9 January 2023, a request for an advisory opinion on the climate emergency and human rights was submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights by Colombia and Chile, seeking to clarify the scope of State obligations to respond to the climate emergency within the framework of international human rights law, paying special attention to the differentiated impacts of this emergency on individuals from diverse regions and population groups, as well as on nature and on human survival on our planet.<sup>19</sup> The Court invited written submissions from interested parties and held hearings in Barbados and Brazil. A total of 265 written submissions and more than 150 oral interventions were received from States, international and national organizations, academia, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendent tribal and rural communities, children and adolescents, among many others.<sup>20</sup>

62. United Nations Harmony with Nature expert members of the Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network, Susana Borrás (Spain) and Jorge Calderón (Mexico) submitted written observations in their individual capacities; Hugo Echeverría (Ecuador) on behalf of the Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights; and, Leonel Fuentes (University of Guayaquil) and Michele Carducci (EuroAmerican Center for Research on Constitutional Policies) submitted jointly by the Faculty of Jurisprudence, Social and Political Sciences of the University of Guayaquil. At the hearings in Barbados, Jorge Calderón Gamboa and Hugo Echeverría highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of Nature in addressing climate change and protecting the human right to a healthy environment. Their oral interventions, which were supported by other organizations participating in the hearings, drew a lot of interest from various judges of the Court.<sup>21</sup> It is anticipated that the Court will issue its advisory opinion in late 2024.

### C. International congresses

63. The Third International Conference “Transitioning to an Ecological Civilization through the Rights of Nature and Ecological Economics”, organized by the Institute

<sup>18</sup> <http://files.harmonywithnatureun.org/uploads/upload1291.pdf> (in Spanish).

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/soc\\_1\\_2023\\_en.pdf](https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/soc_1_2023_en.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> [www.corteidh.or.cr/observaciones\\_oc\\_new.cfm?nId\\_oc=2634](http://www.corteidh.or.cr/observaciones_oc_new.cfm?nId_oc=2634).

<sup>21</sup> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULMKBINFycl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULMKBINFycl).

of Latin American Studies of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, was held from 11 to 20 January 2023 in Santiago de Chile. The Institute of Latin American Studies is the first institute in the Republic of Korea dedicated solely to the study of Latin America and has been working closely with the United Nations Harmony with Nature programme to guide its work on non-anthropocentrism in the fields of rights of Nature and ecological economics. The great interest that the United Nations Harmony with Nature programme has generated in the Korean academic community is demonstrated by the fact that the Institute translated into the Korean language all the General Assembly resolutions and reports on harmony with Nature for the period 2009–2020.<sup>22</sup>

64. The Beyond Growth Conference, held in May 2023 at the European Parliament in Brussels was co-hosted by 20 members of Parliament from different political parties and brought together more than 7,000 participants. The 2023 Conference highlighted the importance of rethinking our current neoliberal model beyond growth in the light of the ecological breakdown. As a result, five Beyond Growth Conferences in 2024 have been confirmed in Austria, Denmark, France, Ireland and Italy, most of them to take place within their respective national Parliaments.<sup>23</sup>

65. The seventeenth Biennial Congress of the International Society for Ecological Economics was held from 23 to 28 October 2023 in Santa Marta, Colombia. The Conference, which was diverse and inclusive, covered many themes: ecological economics, decolonization, plural values and ontologies, the rights of Nature, South-South cooperation and building alternative economies. The Conference emphasized “economies for life”, which focuses on enhancing the quality of life while preserving or recovering life-sustaining ecological functions and promoting social cohesion and biodiversity. The Conference also facilitated alliances between academia and social movements, grass-roots organizations, politicians, civil servants and entrepreneurs seeking harmony between humans and Nature and social justice.

66. People for Earth and the Earth Jurisprudence Society co-hosted the International Conference on Earth Jurisprudence 2023, entitled “Earth jurisprudence: more than human”. The Conference expanded the scope of Earth Jurisprudence by exploring interdisciplinary studies that go beyond the human-centred perspective. The Conference also spotlighted the annual Earth jurisprudence lecture series, which has introduced the concept of and cases of rights of Nature to Korean society since 2015. In November 2023, People for Earth published “Earth Jurisprudence: Declaration of Rights and Political Participation of Nature”, a collection of research papers by Korean scholars on Earth Jurisprudence and Biocracy, the first publication in the Earth Jurisprudence Series.<sup>24</sup>

67. The International Federation of Social Workers, the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Council on Social Welfare announced the theme for the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2024 “Buen Vivir: shared future for transformative change”.<sup>25</sup> The theme was also presented at the 2024 World Conference on Social Work and Social Development, held in Panama from 4 to 7 April 2024.<sup>26</sup> As a result, many seminars are being planned worldwide in 2024. For example, the International Federation of Social Workers Europe runs an eco-social project aiming to encourage social workers to embrace the importance of co-building an eco-social world in alignment with Earth jurisprudence

<sup>22</sup> <http://harmonywithnatureun.org/rightsOfNaturePolicies/>.

<sup>23</sup> [www.beyond-growth-2023.eu/](http://www.beyond-growth-2023.eu/).

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.peopleforearth.kr/eng/load.asp?sub\\_p=board/board&b\\_code=19&idx=744&board\\_md=view#bbs\\_top](http://www.peopleforearth.kr/eng/load.asp?sub_p=board/board&b_code=19&idx=744&board_md=view#bbs_top).

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GlobalAgenda2030-Theme2024.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://sbsd2024.org.pa/bienvenida/>.

principles through lectures, workshops and seminars. The most recent seminar held from 13 to 14 June 2024 in Rotterdam, Kingdom of the Netherlands, included 75 social workers and researchers from all over Europe. The International Federation of Social Workers Europe Conference to be held in Oslo in October 2025 will be dedicated to eco-social work and sustainability in alignment with the aforementioned principles enshrined in the People's Charter for a New Eco-Social World.<sup>27</sup>

68. At the eleventh Pan-Amazon Social Forum (FOSPA), held in the Plurinational State of Bolivia from 12 to 15 June 2024, Indigenous and local community leaders from throughout Latin America debated and approved the recognition of the rights of the Amazon. The Declaration of Rights of the Amazon, drafted by these communities and experts will be promoted internationally through advocacy for its implementation.

### **Education on the rights of Nature in an international context**

69. The burgeoning support for shifting to an Earth-centred paradigm is also demonstrated by a significant increase in educational projects and programmes and in publications about the rights of Nature, supported or sponsored by Governments, academia, the United Nations and many other institutions. A detailed list of publications can be found on the United Nations Harmony with Nature website.<sup>28</sup>

70. Projects related to the rights of Nature funded by the European Union have increased since the publication in 2019 of a study titled *Towards an EU Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Nature*, which established a framework for the legal recognition of the rights of Nature in the European Union, as a prerequisite for a different and improved relationship between human beings and Nature. To date, 11 projects have been funded by the European Union, the most recent being the following.

71. RIVERS (20192025) aims to reconceptualize human rights with different ways of understanding and relating to water. It is funded by the European Research Council under the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and is based at Carlos III University in Madrid.<sup>29</sup> RIVERS addresses the relationship between humans and Nature. Water conflicts throughout the world are presenting fundamental challenges regarding the anthropocentric boundaries of the human rights paradigm. Recently, rivers in Australia, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, India and New Zealand have obtained the status of living entities and legal personality in innovative laws and rulings of domestic high courts.

72. Speak4Nature: "Interdisciplinary approaches on ecological justice" started on 1 March 2023 and was presented at the 2023 dialogue.<sup>30</sup> The project is funded by the European Commission, and the objective is to transfer both theoretical and empirical knowledge related to the techniques that assert the voice of non-human nature in social and legal instances. The project is undertaken by a consortium and is implemented by division into three operational levels of ecological justice. The theoretical level establishes the philosophical framework for the concept of ecological justice, focusing on the analysis of justice, law and human and Nature's rights. The empirical level focuses on how ecological justice operates in practice and how diverse knowledge traditions and cultural roots contribute to giving voice to non-human

<sup>27</sup> [www.ifsw.org/successful-seminar-on-eco-social-work-in-rotterdam-netherlands/](http://www.ifsw.org/successful-seminar-on-eco-social-work-in-rotterdam-netherlands/).

<sup>28</sup> <http://harmonywithnatureun.org/references>.

<sup>29</sup> <https://rivers-ercproject.eu/project/>, <https://rivers-ercproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ERC-RIVERS-Project-Design-LViacene-2018-GA84003.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> [www.speak4nature.eu/](http://www.speak4nature.eu/).



Nature. The strategic level develops long-term practices in ecological justice and contributes to the development of “ecological citizenship”.

73. *Ecoprudence: “Review of the anthropocentric foundations of contemporary legal theory in the light of the ecological transition”* is a project that started on 1 December 2022, funded by the State Research Agency of Spain and Next Generation Funds from the European Union. Its aim is to generate better understanding of the role of law in ecological transition and build theoretical support because all initiatives will require a legal framework and new jurisprudence that provides space and support.<sup>31</sup>

#### **Academic projects supported by the United Nations**

74. The World Federation of United Nations Associations, in collaboration with the Norwegian bank SpareBank 1 SMN and the United Nations Association of Norway, launched the “Under the Starry Sky – Youth Action of SDGs Programme” in January 2023 to fund projects led by youth in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>32</sup> Among the 27 projects selected, one educational project entitled “Reconnecting with Mother Earth” promoted an Earth-centred paradigm in youth education. It was proposed by four undergraduate students of international relations and members of the Harmony with Nature Study Group, and it was hosted by the Center for Studies and Research in International Relations at Faculdades de Campinas (CERI-FACAMP) in Campinas, Brazil. This project was based on non-anthropocentric education and creating a network between youth and Nature.

75. The Academic Council on the United Nations System, at its thirty-seventh annual meeting, held at the United Nations University in Tokyo, from 20 to 22 June 2024, featured, for the first time, a round table on Harmony with Nature. The Council is one of the most prestigious academic conferences of the United Nations, attended by scholars, practitioners and diplomats.<sup>33</sup> The round table “The need for an Earth-centred approach to sustainable development: towards a United Nations Earth Assembly” emphasized that the United Nations urgently needs a shift to an Earth-centred approach and advocated the creation of a United Nations Earth Assembly for mainstreaming that approach across all United Nations sustainable development efforts. The panellists also addressed the promotion of ecological economics for building an ecocentric economic model for long-term planetary well-being.

76. The summer course of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Relations within the Framework of the European Union Council Presidencies and the European Union-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and Ibero-American Summits is the result of close collaboration between the Yuste Foundation and the EU-LAC Foundation, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, the Euroamerica Foundation, the University of Extremadura, and the provincial governments of Cáceres and Badajoz, along with the sponsorship of MAFESA. The course, held from 27 to 29 June 2023, was organized under the presidency of Spain. Many high-level officials from various countries and organizations were invited as speakers. Under the segment “Climate change and the green transition”, Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and former Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, stated that:

Protection schemes for Nature must continue to be consolidated. In other words, recognizing Nature as a subject of rights must impact international cooperation

<sup>31</sup> <https://derechoyjusticia.net/en/node/1910>.

<sup>32</sup> <https://wfuna.org/sustainable-development/under-the-starry-sky-project-updates/>.

<sup>33</sup> [www.acuns.org/events/acuns-annual-meeting-2024/](http://www.acuns.org/events/acuns-annual-meeting-2024/).



models and the development of legal and international policy frameworks ... to protect civil society and ensure that it remains connected to the fight against climate change, it is necessary to establish legal frameworks for protection and ratify international treaties in defence of human rights and the rights of nature.<sup>34</sup>

#### **D. Environmental law moot courts**

77. Environmental law moot courts aim to promote the understanding and application of environmental law in countries worldwide and bring together a diverse community of students, academics and professionals, facilitating exchange of knowledge and experiences that enrich the legal field and foster international collaboration. The Universidad Científica del Sur<sup>35</sup> has successfully organized four sessions of the Environmental Law Moot, establishing itself as a leader in this area. The cases considered are real cases that have been adapted for academic purposes, providing participants with a practical and enriching experience, focusing on several contentious issues that explored boundaries and the application of rights of Nature in international legal contexts.

### **VI. Conclusions and recommendations**

78. The current anthropocentric paradigm has brought a global call for a paradigm shift towards Earth-centred law, ecological economics and governance. The outcry reflects both the ancient wisdom that our human well-being is inseparable from Earth's and the modern understanding that we can neither live together in peace nor achieve our goal of sustainable development unless we rapidly learn to respect and protect the natural world that sustains us.

79. Strong and increasing support for this paradigm shift has consistently been expressed at the United Nations Harmony with Nature dialogues. The growth and success of the paradigm has been demonstrated by the many laws, court decisions, congresses, conferences, national Earth assemblies, projects and educational programmes. Member States are encouraged to continue to advance the implementation of an Earth-centred approach in their national development efforts to ensure a truly synergistic approach that ensures planetary resilience, including through leveraging national Earth assemblies.

80. The increasing success of the Rights of Nature movement shows that it is a pathway forward to replace our exploitation of the natural world with socially and ecologically just ways of protecting Earth. It would be important to strengthen the multilateral dialogue on Earth-centred approaches, including at the United Nations, to further accelerate a shift towards more Earth-centred approaches in the pursuit of sustainable development.

81. The Rights of Nature paradigm is teaching us that we can learn to work together to achieve our shared goals of protecting our common home, achieving social, economic and ecological justice and living in peace and harmony with one another and with Nature. Safeguarding the Rights of Nature encompasses both the protection of the natural world and preservation of every other human right. Member States must continue to hold each other accountable for protecting the planet for present and future generations, including through continued dialogue on establishing binding agreements that safeguard our planet.

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<sup>34</sup> [https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/Report\\_Yuste\\_2023.pdf](https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/Report_Yuste_2023.pdf), p. 20.

<sup>35</sup> [www.cientifica.edu.pe/](http://www.cientifica.edu.pe/).

82. The United Nations system is committed to remaining conversant with recent and forthcoming advancements in shaping a non-anthropocentric or Earth-centred paradigm, and will continue to leverage ongoing work in this area to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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