



What is UNGA 80?

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the UN, which will be the focus of the high-level week (HLW) starting on the 22nd of September. Another highlight of the week is the Climate Stocktaking summit that the Secretary-General is hosting on the 24th of September; here countries are expected to announce their new and enhanced NDCs.

Given the current challenging geopolitical times, the focus of the week will be on the importance of a rules-based international order and multilateralism, as well as highlighting the achievements of the UN system in making progress on poverty eradication, sustainable development and conflict prevention in recent years. The president for the 80th General Assembly is Ms. Annalena Baerbock of Germany, and the theme of the 80th General Assembly chosen by the President is “*Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights*”.

Due to the timing of the week just ahead of the World Conservation Congress, the IUCN delegation this year is slightly reduced, and we are not organizing any events. The IUCN delegation taking part in the different segments of UNGA80 will include the IUCN President, the Regional Director for North America, the Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN, the IUCN Global Ocean Policy Director and other supporting staff member.

What kinds of activities will take place in New York during UNGA 80?

The main part of the UN HLW is the **opening of the 80th session of the General Debate on September 23 which will highlight the 80th anniversary of the UN**. As an Observer IUCN cannot make a statement in the general debate but will be present at the opening as well as at the official commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the UN on the day prior. The full list of the formal meetings held during the week can be found [here](#). For IUCN, key meetings for this year include the following:

1. Climate Action stocktaking meeting

The stocktaking meeting will take place on the 24th of September (from 2 to 6 pm) and only member states are expected to be given speaking slots. *Solutions dialogues* will also be organized throughout the week.

2. SDG Moment

This is an annual meeting, hosted by DSG and organized by DESA to highlight the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will take place on the 22nd of September.

3. High-level meeting on Beijing +30

The high-level meeting was mandated by member states and will take place on the 22nd of September. The theme of the meeting is “*Recommitting to, resourcing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action for all women and girls*”. IUCN will have a statement in the general debate.

Side-events

The gathering in New York will feature several side-events and speaking opportunities where IUCN will be able to *be the voice of nature* and to further raise awareness about its comprehensive portfolio. It will be the occasion for the IUCN Patrons of Nature to hold their annual meeting, for the IUCN delegation to meet with members and donors, as well as other external stakeholders. Key events include:

- 22nd September, 8.30 – 12.00: NASDAQ Building the Future
- 22nd September, 12.30 – 14.00: ***Igniting Global Momentum: Paving the Road to IUCN Congress 2025***: Nature Guardian Majlis roundtable hosted by UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and IUCN(closed event, by invitation only)
- 23rd September, 16:45 – 18:00: **Nature Leaders High Level Event: 30x30** – Safeguarding Nature, Securing Peace and a Sustainable Future at the 80th United Nations General Assembly
- 23rd September, 18.00 – 19.00: **BBNJ High Level event**
- 24th September, 15.00 – 18.00: **One Ocean Finance Roundtable**
- 25th September, 18.00 – 19.00: **Accelerating Global Action on Land Restoration and Drought Resilience, from Riyadh to Ulaanbaatar**

In parallel, [Climate Week NYC](#) will take place (22-30 September 2025). This event brings together over 900 events and activities across the City of New York. It brings together business leaders, decision-makers and civil society representatives from a wide variety of backgrounds, and from all over the world, to drive the transition, speed up progress, and champion change.

IUCN key messages for UNGA 80

Our key messages for this year's HLW will focus on four central themes: multilateralism, climate action, the 2030 Agenda, and gender equality. Environmental cooperation is a tangible way to show that international cooperation works, and if done right, leads to improved outcomes for people and communities. A predictable international rules-based order provides the stability needed for long-term environmental planning. Examples of successes of the multilateral system include milestones such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the BBNJ Agreement, and progress made under the Plastics Treaty negotiations.

This year the global conservation community is gathering for a true celebration of multilateralism at the IUCN World Conservation Congress – bringing together the global conservation community to take decisions on emerging environmental issues. We share the same home, Planet Earth, and the global ecosystem ties us together even during times when it feels like political divisions are pushing us apart. The World Conservation Congress is a key milestone on the 2025 international environmental agenda, positioned just after HLW and in the run-up to both UNFCCC COP30 and UNEA-7. In Abu Dhabi, senior government officials will join leaders from civil society, business, Indigenous peoples, and youth, to discuss and commit to actions on issues of scaling up conservation, reducing climate overshoot risks, delivering on equity and justice, transitioning to nature-positive economies and societies, and innovation and leadership.

For more information, please contact:

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