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# UN New York - April 22, 2025 Conference for the Harmony with Nature Program

- News - General news -



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As part of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Thomas EGLI, Director of the Geneva Forum and Founder of the NGO Objectif Sciences International, was invited by the President of the UN General Assembly to speak.

Presentation of the conference and its program, and official text of Mr. EGLI's opening statement.

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## High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly

•Harmony with Nature and Living Well•

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. New York time – Live broadcast on **UN WebTV**

## Objective of the Conference

In accordance with General Assembly resolution **A/RES/79/210**, this high-level meeting marks the official celebration of **International Mother Earth Day**, held annually on April 22. It aims to **strengthen multilateralism** by promoting **sustainable lifestyles** and **holistic approaches** in harmony with Nature, in direct connection with the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.


The discussions will focus on the conditions that enable Member States, Indigenous Peoples, academics, NGOs, and stakeholders to **integrate ecocentric worldviews into public policy**, where humans are seen as part of Nature, not

separate from it.

## Strategic Context

This conference is part of the United Nations' **Harmony with Nature Program**, active since 2009. It seeks to recognize the **intrinsic value of Nature**, including through ecosystem contributions, the rights of Mother Earth, and Indigenous knowledge systems.

The reference framework includes the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, the **SDGs 12, 13, 14, 15**, and **Target 12.8**, which aims to ensure that everyone has the information needed to adopt lifestyles in harmony with Nature.



President of the  
General Assembly  
79<sup>th</sup> Session



High-level Meeting on Harmony with Nature and Living Well  
Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ, New York  
22 April 2025, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Programme

Time	Segment
10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	<b>Opening Segment</b> Statements by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Philomena Yang, President of the General Assembly</li><li>• H.E. Ms. Celinda Sosa Landa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia</li><li>• Mr. Li Junhua, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs</li><li>• Ms. Sofia Sandström Jaffe, Permanent Observer of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to the United Nations – on behalf of Dr. Gretel Aguilar, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to the United Nations</li></ul>
10:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Pledgery Segment</b> Statements by Member States and Observers of the General Assembly
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch break</b>
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<b>Panel Discussion: Promoting sustainable lifestyles and holistic approaches in harmony with nature</b>

<b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Ligna Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP)
<b>Facilitators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Callie Voelckert, Executive Director, Leatherback Project</li><li>• Mr. Thomas Egli, CEO of the Geneva Forum at the UN &amp; Founder of Objectif Sciences Intl.</li><li>• Mr. Francis Vermande-Paul, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador</li><li>• Ms. Saoudata Aboudhacine, Secretary General, Association for the Development of Nomadic Women (Tin Hissane)</li></ul>

# Official Conference Program

**Location:** Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

**Date:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## 10:00 – 10:40 | Opening Segment

### Speakers:

- H.E. **Mr. Philemon Yang**, President of the United Nations General Assembly
- H.E. **Ms. Celinda Sosa Lunda**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
- **Mr. Li Junhua**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- **Ms. Sofie Sandström Jaffe**, Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN, on behalf of **Dr. Grethel Aguilar**, Director General of IUCN

## 10:40 – 13:00 | Plenary Segment

Statements from **Member States** and **General Assembly Observers**

## 13:00 – 15:00 | Lunch Break

## 15:00 – 18:00 | Interactive Roundtable

**Theme:** Promoting sustainable lifestyles and holistic approaches in harmony with Nature

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Ligia Noronha**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNEP New York Office

### Speakers:

- **Ms. Callie Veelenturf**, Executive Director, The Leatherback Project
- **Mr. Thomas Egli**, CEO of the [Geneva Forum](http://www.geneva-forum.com) [http://www.geneva-forum.com], Founder of [Objectif Sciences International](http://www.osi-ngo.org) [http://www.osi-ngo.org]
- **Mr. Francis Verreault-Paul**, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador
- **Ms. Saoudata Aboubacrine**, Secretary General, Tin Hinane Association for the Development of Nomadic Women

# Watch the Conference Live

The meeting will be broadcast live on [UN Web TV](https://webtv.un.org) [https://webtv.un.org].

Part 1: Opening and Plenary Segments: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k13/k136pm5d8i>

Part 2: Expert Panel: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1d/k1dfnawzks>



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## Statement by Mr. Thomas Egli – CEO of Geneva Forum & Founder of Objectif Sciences International

In response to the request from the President of the United Nations General Assembly, 79th session  
High-Level Meeting “Harmony with Nature and Living Well”, April 22, 2025

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### Harmony with Nature: Living by the Laws of Life

Mr. President, Excellencies, Delegates, Colleagues, Friends of the Earth,

I sincerely thank you for the invitation to take part in this essential gathering. It is both an honor and a duty to represent today the ideas advanced by Objectif Sciences International, a scientific and educational NGO specializing in the co-construction of sustainable solutions inspired by the ecosystemic rules of Life.

### Our Core Belief: Humanity is Part of Nature

For nearly 35 years, our organization has worked to integrate into human practices—whether in education, governance, innovation, or economics—the fundamental rules of living systems, such as:

- Adaptability in complex environments,
- Systemic cooperation over competition,
- Diversity as a lever for resilience,
- Interconnection as a source of stability and creativity,
- Self-organization and regulation through feedback,
- Respect for life cycles, renewal, and transmission.

These principles are foundational not only to ecological regeneration but also to **economic and social resilience**. A **regenerative economy**, modeled after Nature, creates long-term shared value benefiting both the planet and its inhabitants.

We assert that these principles, observable in any balanced ecosystem, are applicable to human organizations of all sizes, local or global, and to individuals alike.

## A Paradigm Shift Is Underway

Our response to your call for a transition toward sustainable lifestyles and holistic approaches is grounded in a scientific and cultural reality:

“Nature is a 3.8-billion-year-old enterprise... that has never gone bankrupt.”

This shift requires us to stop viewing Nature as an external resource to exploit and instead see it as an organizational model we are part of. A **circular economy**, designed with respect for ecological cycles, supports this transition by valuing closed loops, mutualization, functional simplicity, and zero-waste production, product cycles seen in a sustainable way, with an ecosystemic approach to industry (industrial ecology).

## In Practical Terms, We Propose:

- Systemic educational tools developed and tested in our **participatory science** programs, fostering **experiential informal education**, which is significantly more powerful in terms of learning, personal transformation, and engagement than traditional formal education.
- **Bio-inspired governance models**, successfully tested in our field projects (international cooperation, ecological incubators, adaptive enterprises).
- An **organizational analysis matrix** based on the vital functions of Life (production, elimination, communication, protection...), applicable to any human structure seeking internal transformation.
- Recognition of the **rights of Life**, integrated into our methodology—not as a legal abstraction, but as a practical guide for all human decision-making.
- **Impact finance** that does not seek to monetize Nature but rather to **serve it**, by supporting regenerative, educational, cooperative, and structural projects aligned with co-evolution with the planet.

## In Response to Your Questions:

### How can this paradigm be integrated into public policy?

By training decision-makers in systemic logic, embedding bio-inspired approaches into lawmaking, and designing economic plans around regeneration, circularity, and equity.

### What governance mechanisms?

Modular, totipotent, and distributed structures, inspired by the functioning of living organisms, that support subsidiarity, adaptive resilience, and networked innovation, while accommodating diverse cultural approaches.

### What are the challenges?

The greatest challenge is not technical, but cultural: to unlearn and let go of the domination model, making way for

co-evolution with Life. This requires a change in posture—starting with institutions themselves.

### How to include Indigenous knowledge?

By acknowledging that it has always carried a systemic, interconnected, deeply resilient worldview—often more advanced than modern rational systems. OSI works in partnership with several Indigenous communities around the world.

## In Conclusion, I Say: Dare to Live in Harmony

This “harmony with Nature” is not a distant utopia, but a tangible reality for those who observe and draw inspiration from the laws of Life. Many Indigenous civilizations have long understood this. Today we have a historic opportunity to shift from an extractive model to a regenerative one—restoring the planet while elevating humanity.

An economy that **generates revenue while increasing Nature’s resilience** will ultimately create conditions for **sustainable abundance**, where human prosperity becomes a consequence of ecological health. Every amount invested in life **creates circular value** that strengthens both ecosystems and communities.

We are ready to fully cooperate with all stakeholders to implement these approaches and equip the UN with a universal methodology, rooted in Life and adaptable to each culture and territory.

**Thank you for allowing Life, Nature, and Earth to once again become our common reference.**