

**FIRST VIRTUAL DIALOGUE ON HARMONY WITH NATURE TO COMMEMORATE
INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY**

THEME: EARTH JURISPRUDENCE

22 APRIL – 22 JUNE 2016

PROGRAMME

As called for in General Assembly resolution (70/268), the first Virtual Dialogue on Harmony with Nature on the topic of Earth Jurisprudence, in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day, will take place from 22 April – 22 June 2016.

In the course of the coming weeks, experts on Earth Jurisprudence participating in the Dialogue will address the topic from the following disciplines: Earth-centered Law; Ecological Economics; Education; Holistic Science; Humanities; Philosophy/Ethics; the Arts, Media, Design and Architecture; and Theology/Spirituality.

The focus of the Dialogue is on how to reshape human governance systems to operate from an Earth-centered (rather than human-centered) perspective, so that we are all guided to live as responsible members of the Earth community.

Furthermore, with regards to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015 and, with particular reference to Sustainable Development Goal 12, target 12.8 which seeks to “ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature”, this Dialogue advances the implementation of Goal 12.8 by providing information and recommendations from experts in Earth-centered governance.

The following fundamental questions are the same for all disciplines so that answers can be combined in the final report. The questions that Experts will be addressing in the coming weeks are the following:

1. What would the practice of the selected discipline look like from an Earth Jurisprudence perspective? How is that different from how the selected discipline is generally practiced now? And, what are the benefits of practicing the selected discipline from an Earth Jurisprudence perspective?
2. What promising approaches do you recommend for achieving implementation of an Earth-centered worldview for the discipline selected? (Note: depending on the discipline, approaches could also be theoretical, although practical approaches should be prioritized).
3. What key problems or obstacles do you see as impeding the implementation of an Earth-centered worldview in the discipline selected?
4. What are the top recommendations for priority, near-term action to move your selected discipline toward an Earth Jurisprudence approach? What are the specific, longer-term priorities for action? (Note: give 3 to 10 priorities for action).

As Experts address the above-mentioned questions, their inputs will be made available on this website.

Also, as called for in General Assembly resolution (70/268), the summary report of the experts will be submitted in August to the 71st Session of the General Assembly. Once the report has been published and circulated among Member States and other interested parties, they will be invited to provide reflections on the report online in order to advance the Dialogue and future implementation actions further.