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United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**Closing Statement by H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, President of ECOSOC
Joint Meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Second
Committee of the General Assembly**

‘Ecosystem Approaches for shifting the world onto a sustainable pathway’

15 October 2019

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now reached the end of our joint meeting.

I would like to sincerely thank Member States who engaged in the discussion, as well as our panelists for their very insightful interventions.

Our panelists have done a remarkable job in shedding light on the concept of natural-based solutions, and on how these can be better applied to help us overcome complex challenges, and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



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The meeting today showed us that nature-based solutions embrace nature conservation norms and principles, and that they can be implemented alone or in an integrated manner.

Through the discussions, it also emerged that nature-based solutions maintain biological and cultural diversity, as well as the ability of ecosystems to evolve over time, while also recognizing and addressing the trade-offs.

Distinguished delegates,

In my view, the clear message from today's meeting is that nature-based solutions offer concrete answers to problems plaguing our world, and that they should be considered complementary to – not incompatible with – technological solutions.

I would like to close by urging you to not miss the opportunity to embrace them and apply them in appropriate contexts and environments. Thank you.



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