



**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime



Permanent Mission  
of Ecuador to the  
United Nations



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
New York



Permanent Mission of Peru  
to the United Nations

## **Protecting People and the Planet: Innovative approaches in addressing Crimes that Affect the Environment**

High-level Side Event on the Margins of the UN General Assembly High-level Debate on “Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife and other Crimes that Affect the Environment”

***Monday, 8 June 2026 – 13:15 to 14:30***

***United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 5***

---

### **Background**

Crimes that affect the environment – including wildlife crime, crimes in the fisheries sector, forest, minerals, and waste crimes – are increasingly recognized as a serious threat to global security and sustainable development. These crimes degrade ecosystems and biodiversity, undermine climate action, erode economies, and exacerbate social inequalities, while also posing risks to human health.

Over the past decade, the international community has increasingly recognized the scale and complexity of this challenge. The recent adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 79/313 of 30 June 2025 and 80/227 of 18 December 2025, respectively, alongside ongoing work under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), reflects growing momentum to address crimes that affect the environment through strengthened legal frameworks and criminal justice responses.

In this context, there is an urgent need to move from policy recognition to operational action, including by strengthening inter-agency coordination, enhancing international cooperation, and leveraging partnerships with the private sector and technology actors.

This side event aims to contribute to this effort by bringing together Member States and key stakeholders to share experiences, highlight practical approaches, and advance more coordinated and effective responses involving the use of innovation, technology and partnerships. The event will feature interventions from key Member States highlighting innovative national efforts to support countering crimes that affect the environment. Representatives from the private sector, technology community, and civil society will also contribute to the discussion by focusing on how partnerships, innovation, and financial intelligence can enhance detection, analysis, and disruption of environmental crime networks.

## **Programme**

### **Opening Remarks**

- Ms. **Monica Juma**, UNODC Executive Director
- H.E. Mr. **Rüdiger Bohn**, Chair of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and Permanent Representative of the Germany to the UN (Vienna, Austria)

### **Keynote remarks:**

- H.E. Mr. **Andrés Montalvo Sosa**, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN
- H.E. Mr. **Ghislain Ondias Okouma**, Permanent Representative of Gabon to the UN
- H.E. Mr. **Norberto Moretti**, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN
- H.E. Mr. **Thomas Peter Zahneisen**, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN
- H.E. Mr. **Yabesh Oreni Monari**, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN

### **UNODC presentation on Crimes that Affect the Environment:**

- Mr. **Giovanni Broussard**, Africa Coordinator, UNODC Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment

### **Panel Discussion:**

- Ms. **Olivia Swaak-Goldman**, Executive Director, Wildlife Justice Commission
- Mr. **Nicholas J. Schumann**, US Head of Financial Crime Strategy & Framework, HSBC USA
- Mr. **Jordan Steward**, Senior Communications Lead, Conservation, at the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence

### **Q&A / Closing Remarks**

**Moderation:** Ms. **Xiaohong Li**, Representative, UNODC New York Liaison Office