UNEP Urges World to Avoid Barring Walls to Save Biodiversity

UNEP’s appeal for biodiversity comes amid a wave of nationalist policies that appear to be causing “a wall-building frenzy” around the world. UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Director General, Achim Steiner, said that the current political climate is causing “biodiversity to go up against a wall”.

UNEP executive director Erik Solheim called for an end to the global biodiversity crisis, which is “the silent war against nature”. He warned that if the current trends continue, the world will lose half of its biodiversity by 2030.

“Governments cannot continue to build walls, whether it is physical or metaphorical,” he said. “We need to open our borders and protect nature.”

The appeal comes as a number of countries, including the United States, have proposed building walls along their borders to keep out migrants. Steiner said that such walls would “only drive people further into the dangers of illegal migration.”

Steiner called for a global effort to protect biodiversity, saying that “we need to work together to ensure that nature is not left behind in the global agenda.”

He noted that biodiversity is crucial for the health of the planet, and that it is essential for the survival of many species. He said that the current crisis is a “wake-up call” for governments to take action.

Steiner called for a “global compact” on biodiversity, which would set targets for protecting nature. He said that such a compact would be a “once-in-a-century opportunity” to protect the planet.”

The appeal comes as the United Nations is set to adopt a new biodiversity framework in 2020. The framework is expected to set targets for protecting nature, including targets for reducing deforestation, halting biodiversity loss, and reducing pollution.

UNEP said that the world is on track to miss many of these targets, and that urgent action is needed to protect biodiversity. It called on governments to take bold action to protect nature, and to ensure that biodiversity is a priority in future development plans.

The appeal comes as the world is facing a “perfect storm” of environmental challenges, including climate change, land degradation, pollution, and overfishing. Steiner said that biodiversity is “the key to all of these challenges,” and that it is essential for the health of the planet.

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