GEPP Global Environmental Policy Programme

Public Conference

Rio+20
Challenges, Opportunities, Responses

Thursday, 10th May 2012 | 6.30pm
University of Geneva | Room U300 | Uni-Dufour

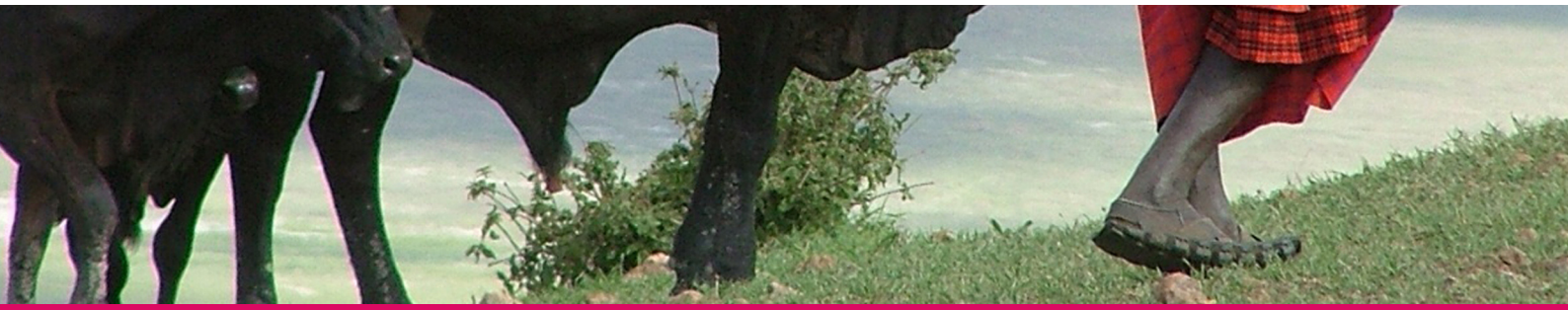
20 years after the 1992 Earth Summit, The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. This conference, known as Rio+20, will focus mainly on promoting a green economy and reforming the institutional framework for sustainable development.

There are numerous challenges and the international community faces increasing difficulties to reach common agreements to take action, as illustrated by the effective implementation of the Kyoto protocol. Rio+20 is a unique opportunity to redefine a global framework for action, through institutional reforms, enabling a green economy and defining Sustainable Development Goals. Are these responses at the level of the challenges?

The speakers will exchange their perspectives on issues that are increasingly treated along the "North-South" divide and give insights about what the world can expect from the Rio+20 conference.

Dr José ROMERO | Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
Dr José Romero is the Head of the Rio Conventions Section of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). He has served with FOEN since 1996 as the Swiss Focal Point for the Climate Change Convention and its Kyoto Protocol as well as for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He previously worked as senior scientist at the World Radiation Center/Physical–Meteorological Observatory in Davos. Mr. Romero holds a PhD in Physics from the University of Lausanne.

Dr Sarah COOK | United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
Dr Sarah Cook is Director of UNRISD since 2009. She moved to UNRISD from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex, UK, where she had been a Research Fellow since 1996. She also worked for the Ford Foundation as Programme Officer for Governance and Public Policy from 2000 to 2005. Ms. Cook received her PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University.



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