



# GEN Celebrating 15 years: The World in 15 Years' Time

Monday, 20 January 2015, 11:00-14:00  
International Environment House II

## Biographies



**Achim STEINER,**  
**UNEP Executive Director and**  
**Under-Secretary-General of the United**  
**Nations**

Achim Steiner, a German and Brazilian national, was elected UNEP Executive Director in 2006. Before joining UNEP, Mr. Steiner served as Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 2001 to 2006, and prior to that as Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams.

His professional career has included assignments with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations in different parts of the world. He worked both at grassroots level as well as at the highest levels of international policy-making to address the interface between environmental sustainability, social equity and economic development.

His educational background includes a BA from the University of Oxford as well as an MA from the University of London with specialization in development economics and policy. He also studied at the German Development Institute in Berlin as well as the Harvard Business School.



**H.E. Franz PERREZ, Switzerland's Ambassador**  
**for the Environment, Head of International**  
**Affairs Division of Switzerland's Federal Office**  
**for the Environment**

H. E. Franz Perrez is Switzerland's Ambassador for the Environment and Head of International Affairs Division of Switzerland's Federal Office for the Environment since 2010. Before that, he worked at the Directorate of International Law at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), at the WTO division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and was the Head of the Global Affairs Section of the



International Affairs Division since 2001. In this capacity, among other activities, Franz Perrez led the campaign for the establishment of the secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Geneva, represented Switzerland at the United Nations Forum on Forests and negotiated on behalf of Switzerland in the areas of chemicals, governance and environmental trade at the World Summit on Sustainability in 2002.

He studied law at the Universities of Bern and Paris II, as well as international law and international environmental and economic law at New York University, where he also obtained his PhD.



**Christian FRIIS BACH, UNECE Executive Secretary**

Mr. Friis Bach was appointed Executive Secretary of UNECE in July 2014. Before entering this position, Mr. Bach served as Denmark's Minister for Development Cooperation (2011-2013) and Head of the Parliamentarian Group for the Danish Social/Liberal Party. He was also Special Advisor to the European Union Commission for the United Nations Global Sustainability Panel (2010-2011). He is honorary professor of international economics and development at the University of Copenhagen (2009-2014) and has been associate professor in international economics and development economics, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (1999-2005). Mr. Friis Bach

has a long history with civil society, notably as the International Director for the DanChurchAid (2005-2010) and as Chairman of the Danish Association for International Cooperation (1997-2001). Mr. Friis Bach holds a Ph.D. in International Economics (1996) and an MSc in Agronomics (1992) from the Royal Danish Agricultural University in Copenhagen.



**Rolph PAYET, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Executive Secretary**

Dr. Payet took up his new duties as Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Executive Secretary in October 2014. Former Seychelles Minister for Environment and Energy, he was before that Special Advisor to the president on

numerous environmental matters including sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, energy and international environment policy. Dr. Payet also established important multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) and co-chaired the International Coral Reef Initiative. He



also was Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third and Fourth Assessments and was elected as Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS) in 2007 in recognition of his contributions to marine research. He established the first university in Seychelles in 2009, and is its present ProChancellor. He holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Linnaeus University, of which he is now an Associate Professor.



**Inger ANDERSEN, IUCN Director-General**

Ms. Andersen was appointed IUCN Director General in October 2014 and started her new role in January 2015. A Danish national, Ms Andersen began her career working on desertification and dryland issues in Sudan, and with the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office in New York. With the establishment of the Global Environment Facility in 1992, she was asked to serve as the Arab Region Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a position she held until 1999 when she moved to the World Bank. At the World Bank, Ms Andersen worked primarily on water, environment and sustainable development, with special focus on the Africa and MENA Regions. In 2010, she was named Vice President for Sustainable Development, overseeing the technical quality of the Bank's portfolio and leading the Sustainable Development Network. Ms Andersen was requested to take on the Vice President position Ms Andersen was also appointed Head of the CGIAR Fund Council in 2010. Ms. Andersen received her Master's Degree in Development Economics and African Politics from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies.



**Marco LAMBERTINI, WWF International Director-General**

Mr. Lambertini is the WWF International Director-General since May 2014. With 35 years of conservation leadership, Marco Lambertini began his association with WWF as a youth volunteer. Prior to joining WWF, he served as Chief Executive of BirdLife International. That role saw him broaden BirdLife's global reach and relevance, and develop decentralized structures for most effective global conservation impact. He managed a highly decentralized secretariat, overseeing a global partnership of over 120 civil society organizations based in countries and territories in all continents. He also published books ranging from Safari in Africa (Muzzio) to A naturalist's guide to the Tropics (Chicago University Press).



Mr. Lambertini has a degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of Pisa.

### **Thierry APOTHELOZ, Mayor of Vernier**



Mr. Apothéloz has been first elected as Mayor of Vernier in 2003. He has been actively involved in community life, campaigning for an emphasis on participatory democracy and launching several participatory programmes for the inhabitants of municipalities. Mr. Apothéloz started his political career in 1997 at the municipal council of la Ville du Locle in Neuchâtel. He was then elected municipal counsellor of the city of Vernier in 2000. He has also served as deputy to the Parliament of the Canton of Geneva between 2001 and 2003. He is also Vice-President of several institutions of the Canton of Geneva and President of the Geneva section of the Swiss organisation for Support to Workers. Mr. Apothéloz holds a Bachelor in Law from the University of Geneva and a Bachelor of Arts in Social work from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts/Western Switzerland.



### **Laurence DE CHAZOURNES, University of Geneva**

Mrs. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes is Professor of international law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva. She has gained a wide-ranging reputation in academic circles for her contribution to international law, in fields such as the law of international organizations, international economic law and international environmental law, while at the same time being recognized for her practical work as Senior Counsel to the World Bank and as advisor to many international organizations.

She is the author of a large number of publications dealing with international environmental law and natural resources law, public international law, international organizations and international economic law.

Professor Boisson de Chazournes holds a PhD in international law from the Graduate Institute (summa cum laude), the Bar exam (France), a JD and a master degree in private law from the University of Lyon III, a BA in sociology from the University of Lyon II and a Diploma in Political Science from the Institute of Political Sciences (Lyon).