



Trade and Green Economy High-Level Panel & Handbook Launch

Biographies

Achim STEINER, UNEP Executive Director

In 2006, Achim Steiner was unanimously elected by The United Nations General Assembly as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for a four-year term, and subsequently for a further four years in 2010. Following the decision of the 68th General Assembly of United Nations, Mr. Steiner's mandate has been extended for two years up to June 2016.

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 including India, Pakistan, Germany, Zimbabwe, USA, Vietnam, South Africa, Switzerland and Kenya. 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.

Mr. Steiner serves on a number of advisory councils and boards including as the International Vice Chair of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

Arancha GONZÁLEZ, ITC Executive Director

Arancha González has been ITC's ED since 2013. Before joining ITC, Ms. González served as Chief of Staff to World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Pascal Lamy from 2005 to 2013. During her tenure at the WTO, she played an active role in launching the WTO's Aid for Trade initiative and served as Mr. Lamy's representative at the G-20.

Prior to working at the WTO, Ms. González held several positions at the European Commission, conducting negotiations of trade agreements and assisting developing countries in trade-development efforts. Between 2002 and 2004, she was the European Union spokeswoman for trade and adviser to the European Union Trade Commissioner.



Ms. González began her career in the private sector advising companies on trade, competition and state-aid matters. She served as an associate at Bruckhaus Westrick Stegemann, a major German law firm, in Brussels.

Mark Halle, Executive Director, IISD-Europe

Mark Halle has had a long career as a leader in international environmental conservation.

Prior to joining IISD in 2002, Mr. Halle worked with IUCN starting in 1984, most recently to establish its Global Policy and Partnerships program.

Before that, he helped establish and direct the WWF program in China, and worked for UNEP starting in the Policy Planning Unit where he ended up contributing to the global State of the Environment report published 10 years after UNEP's establishment.

He lectures, writes and publishes frequently on issues relating to sustainable development and multilateral trade policy.