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environment, transport, energy and communications ETEC

**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**  
International Affairs Division

# **Environmental Perspectives in Setting Global Sustainable Development Goals**

by Ambassador Franz Perrez

World Environment Day, 5. June 2012



# Overview

- Governance and Goals
- The example of the MDGs
- Global Environmental Goals
- The road to Sustainable Development Goals



- 1. Governance and Goals**
2. The example of the MDGs
3. Global Environmental Goals
4. The road to Sustainable Development Goals



# Problems of the International Environmental Governance

- Fragmentation and dilution;
- Overlaps, duplications, inconsistencies, lack of coherence, gaps;
- Lack of common orientation of players involved;
- Inadequate institutional authority and leadership within IEG (authority, membership, financial resources);
- Imbalance between the environmental regime and other regimes with weak obligations; limited resources; weak compliance / dispute settlement mechanisms;
- Insufficiencies concerning visibility of environmental issues, pressure, prioritization.



# Efforts to strengthen international environmental governance:

- Establishment of institutions (UNEP; GEF; GMEF; EMG);
- UNEP IEG-Process (authority; finances, cooperation, coherence, capacity building);
- UN (UN-system wide coherence; informal consultations);
- Proposal for an WEO or ONUe (D; F);
- Clustering and Synergies (CH);
- UNEP Belgrade ... Helsinki Process.



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**=> Efforts have so far focused on institutional aspects!**



# Governance

- Governance as the system how actors, through institutions and processes, identify, address and solve common problems.
- This system should provide for a coherent, comprehensive, effective and efficient framework
  - to identify needs for commitment,
  - to trigger commitments where needed,
  - to make commitments visible,
  - to ensure implementation of commitments



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**=> Governance is more than institutions!**





# Governance and Goals

International environmental governance needs:

- Strong Institutions; and
- Clear Common Goals and Commitments.



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# The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)





# MDGs as example how to strengthen the processes for Environmental Governance

- Starting point: the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000.
- Based on this declaration the UN machinery developed eight concrete development goals – the MDGs.
- The 59th General Assembly adopted an outcome document that reaffirmed the international community's commitment to achieve the MDGs.
- For each goal, indicators were developed for tracking progress towards the goal.



# Learn from the MDG experience

The MDGs are a success story. They have proven to be an extremely useful tool as they helped to:

- Strengthen **commitment** and revitalize the development agenda and UNDP's mandate;
- Unite and provide **focus and common orientation** for the main international and national actors behind key commitments Provide a common orientation;
- Raise awareness and **visibility** for development issues;
- Generate new **means of implementation**;
- Improve tracking of progress and **accountability**.



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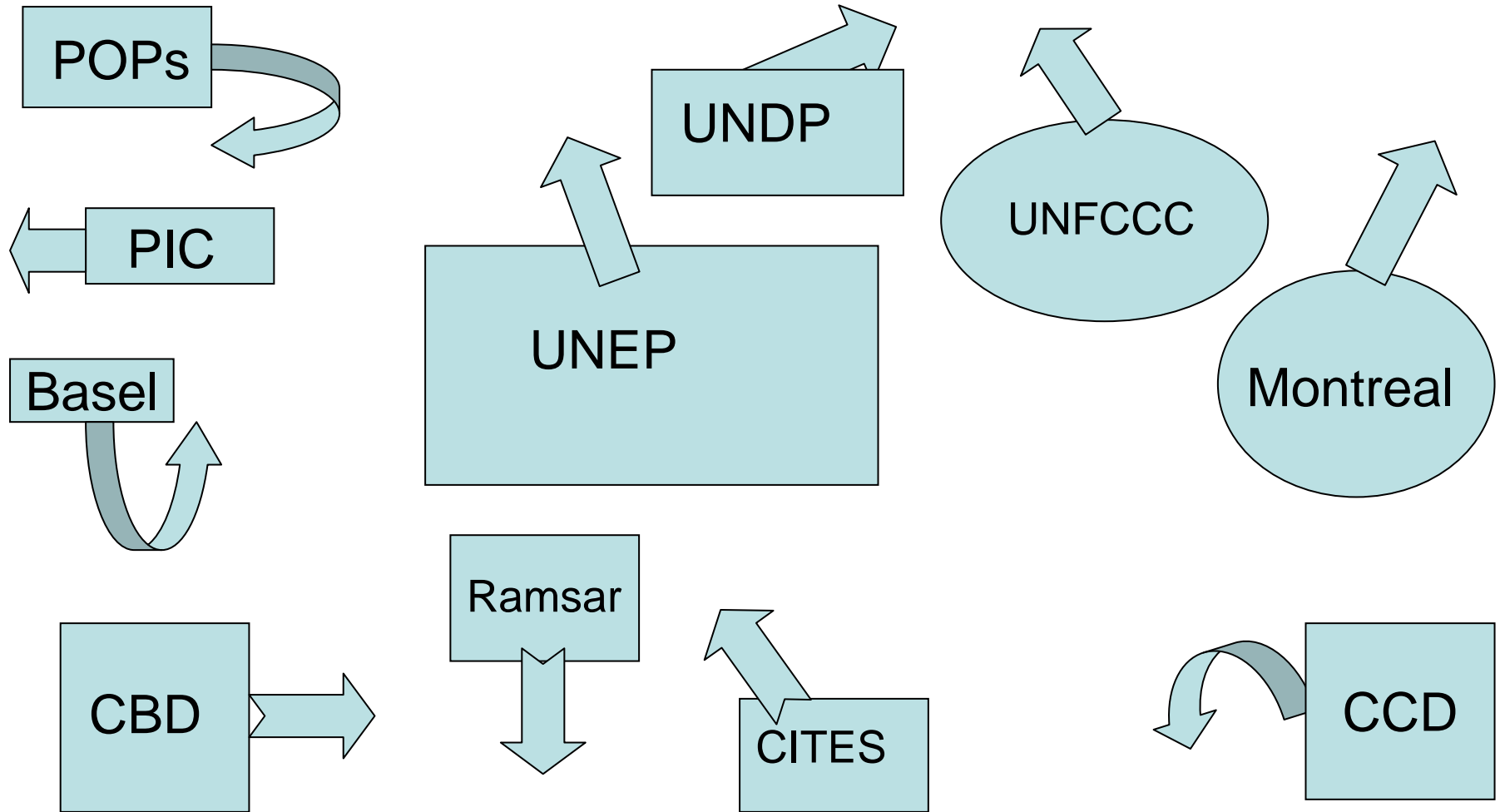


# Benefits to be expected from GEGs

- **Complement institutional efforts** to strengthen international environmental governance;
- Reinforce the **commitment** to environmental protection;
- Provide common **orientation and focus** and improve **coherence**;
- Increase **visibility and awareness** of environmental challenges – also for a wider public;
- Strengthen political will and generate new **means of implementation**;
- Ensure **accountability** of progress;



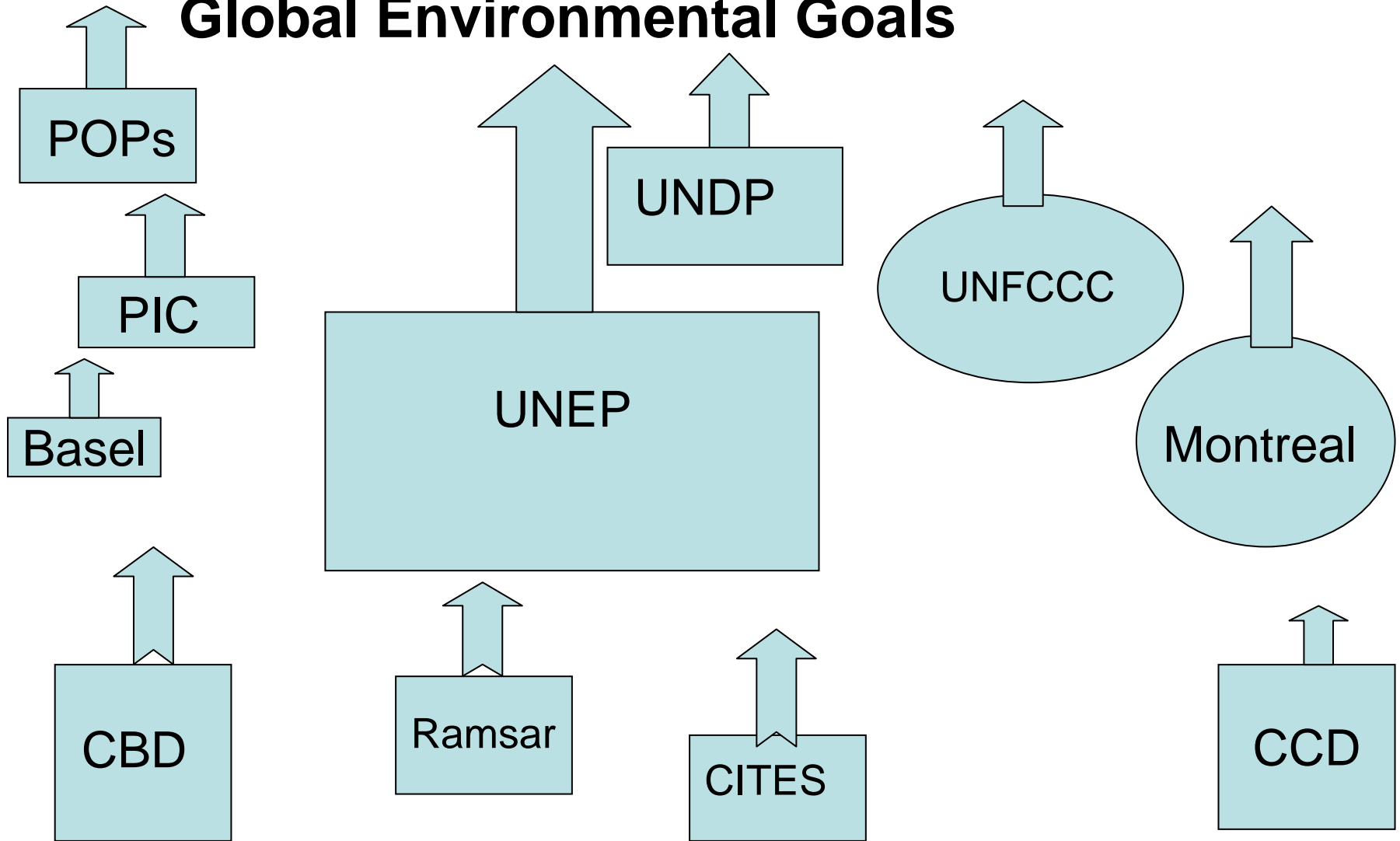
# Today's Global Environment Regime







# The Global Environment Regime with Global Environmental Goals





# Like the MDGs: GEGs can be based on agreed goals and targets

- **The GEGs do not need to be negotiated!** They can be derived from existing agreements and commitments to protect the environment, e.g.:
  - **Biodiversity:** Achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of the earth's Biodiversity (WSSD)
  - **Climate:** Achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system (UNFCCC)
  - **Chemicals:** Achieve by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. (WSSD)
  - **Water:** Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans (WSSD)



# The development of Global Environmental Goals

- The president of Switzerland suggested at the GMEF 2006 that UNEP should develop GEGs.
- UNEP developed a compilation of existing internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives.
- Compilation was reviewed by
  - a group of independent experts
  - senior government officials in the Montevideo Programme IV
  - MEA secretariats
  - an open-ended meeting with government reps.
- The GMEF called GEO-5 to be more policy relevant and to assess progress in relation to internat. agreed goals.



# Global Environmental Goals today

The GEGs have become a crucial tool for UNEP's assessment of progress in GEO-V.

The GEGs will help to further focus and orient our work in the field of the environment.

The GEGs will strengthen the environmental contribution to realizing the MDGs.



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# Rio+20 and Sustainable Development Goals

- The MDGs come to an end in 2015.
- While being a success, they suffered from limitations, most importantly: their focus was too narrowly on development.
- „Our efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated.”  
(Kofi Annan, *In Larger Freedom*, 2005):



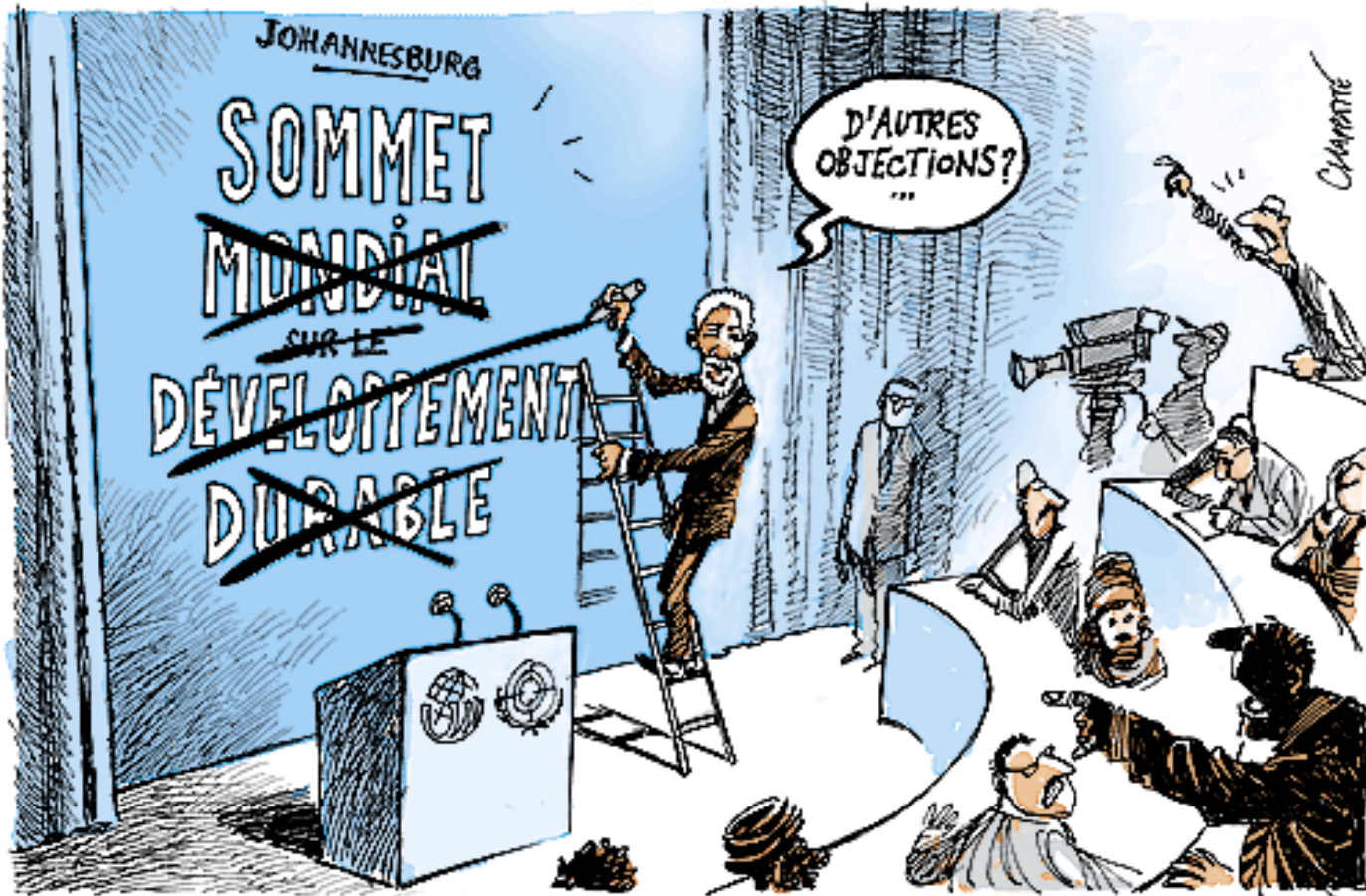
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**=> Proposal to develop Sustainable Development Goals that should replace the MDGs after 2005**



# Negotiating Sustainable Development Goals?







=>The GEGs will be a crucial basis for the development of Sustainable Development Goals after Rio+20!



# THANK YOU !