

EXHIBITION LAUNCH
Wednesday 8 March 2017

**EXHIBITION LAUNCH
AWARD CEREMONY**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

GENDER.ENVIRONMENT.CHAMPION

The 2017 theme for International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March, focuses on "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030". On this particular day, UN Women and the UN family call upon all actors to Step It Up for Gender Equality towards a Planet 50-50 by 2030. As part of the International Women's Day, a call for nominations was launched in February 2017 to recognize Geneva-based individuals' commitment and contribution to the advancement and support of gender equality and women's empowerment in the field of environment. An exhibition celebrating their achievements was launched on 8 March 2017, at the International Environment House I.

#GENder4Envnt #IWD2017



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GENEVA.GENDER.ADVOCATES 2016/17

BACKGROUND

International Women's Day is celebrated globally every year on 8 March. This year's theme focuses on "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030". On this particular day, UN Women and the UN family call upon all actors to Step It Up for Gender Equality towards a Planet 50-50 by 2030.

In 2016, as part of International Women's Day, a call for nominations for Geneva-based inspirational women working to protect the environment was launched and 20 of the inspirational women nominated were awarded.

In 2017, three weeks ahead of International Women's Day on 8 March, a new call for nominations was launched with the purpose of recognizing individuals' commitment and contribution to the advancement and support of gender equality and women's empowerment in the field of environment, working in the Geneva area.

The 18 Gender and Environment Advocates who were selected by committee and accepted the award are now part of an exhibition celebrating their achievements. This exhibition was launched at the International Environment House on 8 March 2017. The event was chaired by Elena MANAENKOVA, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee had the difficult task of choosing this year's top Gender and Environment advocates for Geneva. A panel representing different organisations, ages, genders, sectors, and nationalities chose the advocates selected this year. Each nomination was given due consideration and multiple nominations for the same person considered on their different merits. The advocates selected come from a variety of different organisations and backgrounds, from Permanent Missions, the UN family, academia, civil society, and intergovernmental organisations.

Members: Philippe RAMET (Permanent Mission of France), Linda KASEVA (UN Environment), Sophie BROWN (UN Environment), Marie LE GUILLOUZIC (My Drop in the Oceans), Diana RIZZOLIO (Geneva Environment Network).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Group on Earth Observations
Secretariat

BARBARA RYAN

TRANSPARENT.TRUSTWORTHY.DETERMINED

Barbara Ryan is Secretariat Director of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO). Before becoming GEO Director in July 2012, Ryan served as Director of the World Meteorological Organization Space Programme and prior to this was the Associate Director for Geography at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. Barbara holds a Bachelor's degree in Geology, a Master's degree in Geography, and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate of science degree from the State University of New York at Cortland and was recently named an Honorary Fellow of the American Geographical Society. In January 2017, she was one of 10 global leaders to be named for a lifetime award in the Geospatial World Forum's Hall of Fame. She is one of the few female leaders in this space and works hard to support and inspire her colleagues, including through mentoring young female professionals.

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United Nations
Environment Programme

BARBARA RUIS

PASSIONATE.PREPARED.INNOVATIVE

Barbara Ruis is an international lawyer, specialized among other things in the interaction between human rights and environment. She is passionate about access to justice, public participation, gender equality, and the rights of everyone to a healthy environment. Colleagues recognize Barbara for her innovative and collaborative attitude. Barbara has previously worked as a lawyer for the Secretariat of the Commission for Sustainable Development in New York, as well as a researcher and lecturer at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. Barbara is currently Legal Advisor to UN Environment’s Europe Office. She works in a broad range of multilateral settings, providing guidance to Secretariats and parties of a variety of regional environmental agreements. She is closely involved in relevant items on the Human Rights Council agenda, and represents UN Environment in the negotiations that ultimately will lead to a treaty on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

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Romania

ELENA DUMITRU

PASSIONATE.INNOVATIVE.ACCOMPLISHED

Elena Dumitru (B.S. ChE, MPA) is Minister Plenipotentiary with the Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN Office in Geneva and International Organisations in Switzerland. Elena has been tackling environmental challenges for over 25 years. She is a strong advocate for integrating gender dimensions into environmental policy, nurturing and protecting the environment for future generations. She has led teams of Romanian and European Union experts in the endeavours of the international community to attain sustainable economic development. As Deputy Minister of Environment in the Romanian Government, Elena led Romania's transition to the EU's environmental standards. Her advocacy for achieving affordable environmental sustainability was translated into waste and chemicals management legislation, which has laid the groundwork for Romania to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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World Health Organization

ELENA VILLALOBOS PRATS

PASSIONATE.ENGAGED.COMMITTED

Elena Villalobos Prats is responsible for capacity development and country support in the Climate Change and Health team at the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva. Elena is a lawyer by training and holds an MSc in Public Health (environmental health), an MSc in International development and Humanitarian Aid, and a MA in Gender and Equity. She has extensive experience in managing NGO development projects, including on gender, in Asia and South America. In her current position at WHO, Elena is responsible for implementing the components of the WHO workplan on climate change and health related to the provision of policy and technical support for the implementation of the public health response to climate change. This includes the integration of a gender approach. To do so, she has developed guidance and training materials on gender, climate change and health. Elena was a contributing author to the 2016 Global Gender and Environment Outlook.

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Independent Expert

FATOUMATA KEITA-OUANE

DYNAMIC.DEDICATED.VISIONARY

Former Head of UN Environment Chemicals Branch and the Scientific Assessment Branch, Fatoumata Keita-Ouane has extensive experience in environment and health issues. Throughout her career she has been committed to supporting women through her leadership and mentoring. Fatoumata has contributed to the development of UN Environment’s capacity building programme on chemicals management. She joined the Secretariat of Stockholm Convention leading the functioning of the Expert Committee tasked with the review of Persistent Organic Pollutants proposed for listing in the Convention and its effectiveness evaluation. She has provided technical and policy support to the UN Environment Global Environment Outlook process and global fora, including the Global Environment Facility and UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Fatoumata retired from UN Environment in 2015 but continues to provide expert advice on environment, chemicals and health, as well as supporting girls’ education in Mali.

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World Economic Forum

GILL CASSAR

PASSIONATE.HARD-WORKING.INCLUSIVE

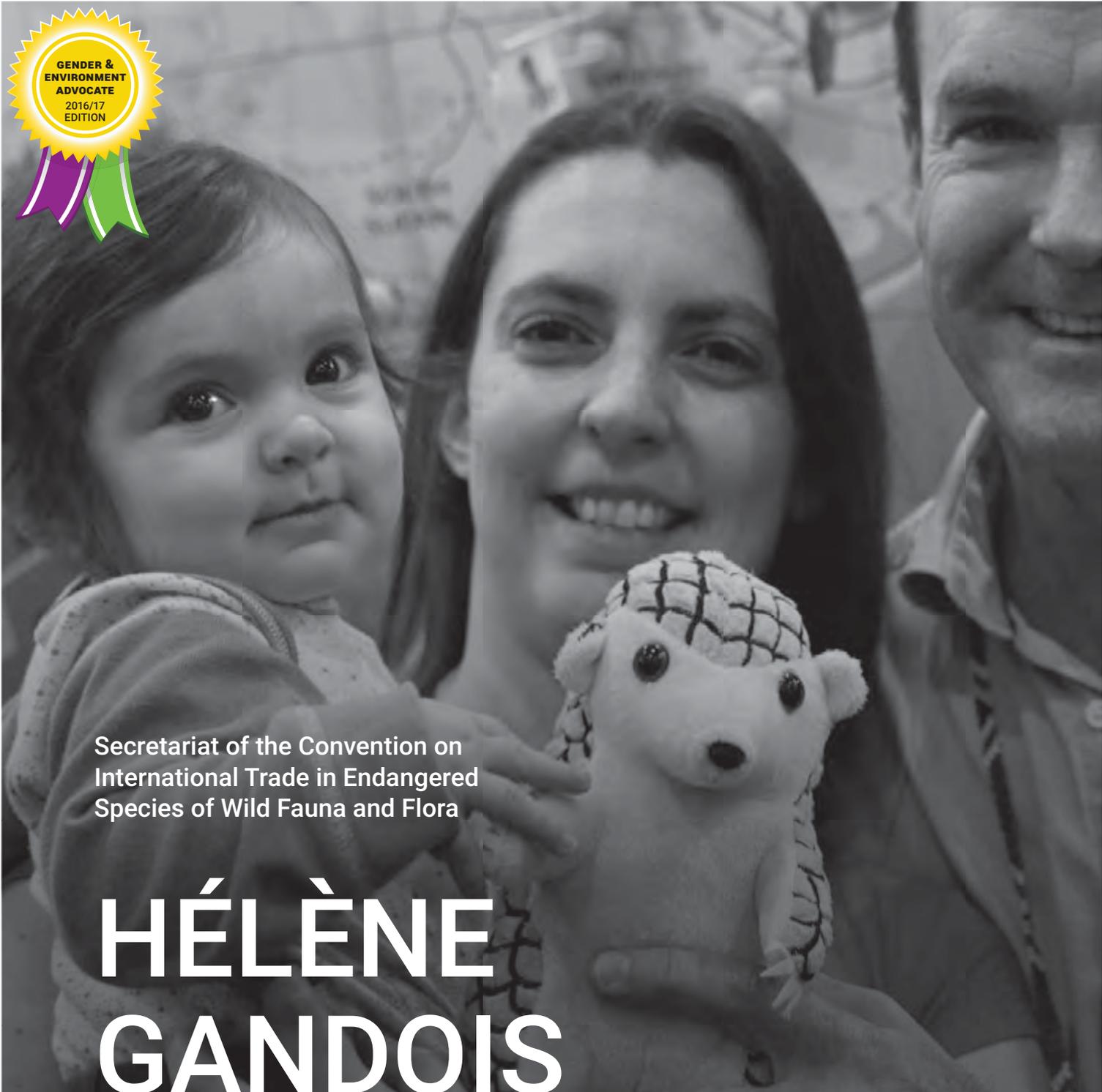
Gill Cassar is the programme lead on Environment, Sustainability and Clean Energy at the World Economic Forum. Gill is highly dedicated to environmental issues and gender equality, working hard to improve the profile and access of women leaders on environment in Forum discussions. Gill manages the content development for the World Economic Forum's public agenda on climate, water, pollution, the circular economy, forests, conservation and clean energy. She is responsible for engaging experts in the Forum's work who have innovative technologies that can improve management of the global commons. Prior to joining the World Economic Forum, Gill was a manager at Dalberg, a management consulting firm dedicated to global development, where she worked with the environment practice area. She has started her own NGO and, through the Cherie Blaire Foundation, has mentored women entrepreneurs working in the environmental sector.

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Secretariat of the Convention on
International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

HÉLÈNE GANDOIS

EFFICIENT.CREATIVE.DEVOTED

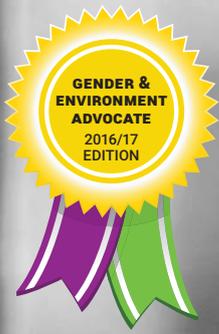
Hélène Gandois works as Programme and Documentation Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Since joining the Secretariat, she has been a passionate advocate for gender parity and a gender perspective in many elements of its work. She is a strong role model for many young women and a source of inspiration to her colleagues. Recently, at the 17th CITES Conference of the Parties, Hélène travelled with her 7-month old daughter to South Africa, where she successfully balanced her (sometimes round-the-clock) professional responsibilities with her role as a mother. Prior to her work with CITES, she worked for the United Nations Institute of Training and Research and the United Nations University. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Oxford. She maintains an interest in academic research with a particular focus on comparative regionalism and regionalism and security in Africa.

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International Union
for Conservation of Nature

INGER ANDERSEN

PASSIONATE.AMBITIOUS.DETERMINED

Inger Andersen was appointed Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in January 2015. An outspoken advocate for women's leadership, she lives by the motto that to truly empower women, data must reflect the full picture and that women's leadership should be championed to work towards a more sustainable, equitable and peaceful world. She strongly believes that gender equality is not an 'optional add on', nor a last minute 'box to check'. She feels that we need to recognize the different contributions that can be made to conservation, be they from men, women, girls or boys. Prior to joining IUCN, Inger held various leadership roles at the World Bank and United Nations. Her educational background includes BA and MA degrees with specialization in development economics.

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UNAIDS

JULIANE DREWS

DYNAMIC.ENTHUSIASTIC.COMMITTED

Juliane Drews oversees UNAIDS' flagship programmes to reach gender parity and empower women, working with great personal energy and commitment to making gender equality a reality. Juliane also champions her passion for sustainability as member of UNAIDS Environment Working Group and co-organizer of the Green Cinéforum. Her own activities demonstrate that everyone can contribute to these causes through their daily choices. In her role as People Development Officer, Juliane designs, implements and coordinates learning activities for all UNAIDS staff from young talents to senior leaders. As Co-Chair of the Geneva Learning Network, a forum for UN professionals based in Geneva and involved in learning, training and staff development, she leads the development of an interagency Programme for Emerging Women Leaders. Juliane's professional experience includes assignments in Sofia, Budapest, Bethlehem and Turin. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Freie Universität Berlin.

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International Institute for Sustainable Development

JULIE DEKENS

DEDICATED.PASSIONATE.INTELLIGENT

Julie Dekens is a Senior Researcher at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), where she has helped elevate gender as an institutional priority. Julie currently leads the development of IISD’s work in agricultural value chains and private sector engagement in climate adaptation. Much of Julie’s work has focused on climate risk management in Africa and Asia, particularly in the agriculture sector. She has extensive experience in using participatory approaches to support climate risk mainstreaming, as well as working with both communities and government officials on climate adaptation planning and capacity building. Prior to joining IISD, Julie worked in Kathmandu, Nepal, for ICIMOD, a regional knowledge centre serving the Hindu Kush Himalaya region where she was particularly active in promoting the integration of local knowledge on disaster preparedness. Julie holds a Master’s degree in Natural Resources Management.

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Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change

KERSTIN STENDAHL

INSPIRATIONAL.INFLUENTIAL.HUMAN

Kerstin Stendahl is the Deputy Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Kerstin has been a lead figure in promoting gender equality and raising gender issues in environmental organizations. She worked at the Ministry of the Environment in Finland, in the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and for the Nordic Council of Ministers. She was one of three co-chairs for the intergovernmental process on synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. In 2012, she took up office as Deputy Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions before moving to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in January 2017. Throughout her career she has focused specific attention on gender issues, including as a member of various government committees, by highlighting and developing training opportunities and award schemes as well as emphasizing gender aspects of recruitment policies and practices. Kerstin has a major in International Law from Åbo Akademi University in Finland.

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Graduate Institute
of International and
Development Studies

LILIANA ANDONOVA

MENTOR.COMMITTED.KNOWLEDGEABLE

Liliana Andonova is Professor of Political Science and International Relations, and Academic Co-Director of the Center for International Environmental Studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. Through teaching and collaborative research, she has supported the professional advancement of many talented young women, who have become leaders and advocates for the environment and sustainable development in academia, policy work, and international relations. She has been named Giorgio Ruffolo Fellow in Sustainability Science at Harvard University and Senior Fernand Braudel Fellow at the European University Institute. Her research focuses on international institutions, transnational governance, and environmental cooperation, in an effort to chart new pathways to addressing complex issues of sustainability.

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International
Telecommunication Union

MALCOLM JOHNSON

VISIONARY.LEADER.INSPIRING

Malcolm Johnson started his mandate as Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union on 1 January 2015. From 2007 to 2014 he served as Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau where he spearheaded activities in cybersecurity, climate change and accessibility, considerably increasing the involvement of developing countries and academia in ITU's standards activities. During his time leading the TSB he led a push for gender equality, increasing the number of female staff in the bureau and supporting junior staff to achieve their potential and take forward the work on climate change and sustainability. Between 2003 and 2006, Malcolm was International Coordinator at the United Kingdom's Office of Communications. In previous positions, he was Director of the United Kingdom's Radiocommunications Agency worked in the European Commission's Telecommunication Regulations Division.

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United Nations
Environment Programme

MARISOL ESTRELLA

INSPIRING.DEDICATED.EFFICIENT

Marisol Estrella coordinates the Disaster Risk Reduction portfolio in the Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch of UN Environment. She is passionate about inspiring both young women and men in becoming agents of positive change and is a strong role model for her colleagues. Marisol is an active member of the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, a global coalition of 24 organizations, which advocates for healthy ecosystems in building people’s resilience to disasters and climate change. She also coordinates a partnership for strengthening environmental management in the oil and gas sector. She has trained over 600 individuals from 42 countries and assisted both governments and local communities. She holds a Masters with Distinction in Environment, Development and Policy and a Bachelors with First Class Honours in Anthropology and Environmental Studies.

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Secretariat of the Basel,
Rotterdam, and Stockholm
Conventions

MATTHIAS KERN

PATIENT.PERSISTENT.PRINCIPLED

Matthias Kern is Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance Branch in the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. From 2012 to 2016, he was appointed Gender Coordinator of the Secretariat and organized the development and implementation of the Secretariat's Gender Action Plan. His persistent personal efforts have done much to raise and institutionalize gender equality throughout the Secretariat and in the Conventions' technical assistance activities. Matthias started his professional career as Research Associate at the Plant Protection Institute in Goettingen, Germany, before joining the German Technical Cooperation. In 2005, he was appointed Senior Programme Officer for persistent organic pollutants and other hazardous chemicals in the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, UN Environment. From 2009 to 2012, he was Head of the Implementation and Capacity Building Unit in the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

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EMPOWERING WOMEN
TO LEAD
FROM

United States of America

**GENEVA GENDER
SUPER-CHAMPION**

PAMELA HAMAMOTO

VISIONARY.INSPIRING.CHAMPION

Ambassador Pamela K. Hamamoto served as Permanent Representative of the United States Mission in Geneva from June 2014 until January 2017, leading the U.S. Mission’s engagement on a diverse range of issues, including gender equality and women’s empowerment, and climate change and the environment. In 2015, she launched The Future She Deserves, a cross-cutting initiative driving collaboration and creative problem-solving in the areas of gender-based violence, adolescent girls’ health, economic empowerment, and increased leadership opportunities. She co-founded Geneva Gender Champions, a leadership network uniting key decision-makers to advance gender equality. Pamela began her career working as a civil engineer in the clean energy sector and as a strategic advisor in the telecommunications industry. She received undergraduate and graduate degrees in Civil Engineering from Stanford University and an M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

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World Business Council
for Sustainable Development

TATIANA FEDOTOVA

PROFESSIONAL.VALUE-DRIVEN.DEDICATED

Tatiana Fedotova is a sustainability professional passionate about water-related challenges and solutions, including their role in empowering women to lead lives where they can realize their full potential. She is currently the Director of Water at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, advocating for and facilitating progressive action by business to achieve sustainable water management for all. She previously held positions with the UN-hosted Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, including an advisory role in strategic communications for change to the Madagascar country program of the Global Sanitation Fund, and UNICEF in India. Tatiana holds degrees in Political Science, and Globalization, Social Regulation and Sustainable Development. She cares deeply about the resilience of humans and nature and is dedicated to building a fairer world, where growth and innovation go hand in hand with respect of people and planet earth.

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United Nations
Environment Programme

VERA WEICK

DEDICATED.INNOVATIVE.RELIABLE

Vera Weick joined UN Environment in 2003 and has since been committed to bring sustainability to the heart of economic policies and practices, including ensuring that gender issues are given due attention in this work. She has led initiatives to analyze the linkages between trade and biodiversity, advance sustainability assessment in national development planning and build capacity on economic tools in environmental management. She contributed to UN Environment's flagship report on Green Economy and led the launch of training programmes. Vera currently coordinates a partnership between five UN agencies to advance inclusive green economies in 14 countries. Vera previously worked for the German Technical Cooperation in Indonesia, supporting enterprises to switch to cleaner production methods and running trainings in South Africa, Thailand, Algeria and Vietnam. Vera holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and a postgraduate degree from the German Development Institute.

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GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

The Geneva Environment Network is a cooperative partnership of over 75 environment and sustainable development organizations based at the International Environment House and elsewhere in the Geneva area, including United Nations offices and programmes, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and academic institutions.

Set up in 1999, the GEN secretariat, led by the United Nations Environment Programme and supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, actively promotes increased cooperation and networking between its members.

