You are cordially invited to attend a discussion on chemical weapons, organized within the framework of the Geneva Environment Network, on Tuesday 26 July 2016, at the International Environmental House II. We will have the pleasure to welcome two senior experts, Muralee Thummarukudy and Paul Walker.

Muralee Thummarukudy, Senior Programme Officer at UNEP, personally spent time in Syria during the chemical weapon destruction process that took place in 2014. At the request of the UN Secretary General, UNEP provided environmental expertise to the Joint UN-OPCW mission to destroy Syrian chemical weapons, and hence UNEP sent environmental experts to Syria in 2013-2014 to advise on environmental safeguards for all steps of the process, starting from transportation from the storage site, loading in the port of Latakia, to the final destruction aboard the US Ship Cape Ray.

Paul Walker is one of the most effective advocates for the abolition of chemical weapons. His leadership has helped to safely and verifiably eliminate more than 65,000 metric tons of chemical weapons from six declared national arsenals. He has been key to leveraging over one billion dollars annually in effective programmes for arms control, disarmament, threat reduction and nonproliferation. Paul Walker has engaged government leaders, NGOs, think tanks and citizens’ groups around the world to work towards full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and for a world free from the dangers of chemical weapons.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Henrik SLOTTE, Chief, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, UNEP
Adam KONIUSZEWSKI, Chief Operating Officer, Green Cross International (Geneva)

Discussion
Paul WALKER, Director, Environmental Security and Sustainability programme, Green Cross International (Washington DC)
Muralee THUMMARUKUDY, Senior Programme Officer, Post-Conflict and Disasters Management Branch, UNEP

Q & A

Closing Remarks
Marie-Gaëlle ROBLES, Counsellor, Permanent representation of France to the Conference on Disarmament