



Preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

10h30 - 12h30, Tuesday, 16 January 2001
International Environment House

Several weeks ago, the UN General Assembly agreed on the preparatory process for the "World Summit on Sustainable Development" a major global conference that will assess progress on implementing the Rio Earth Summit agreements. The World Summit will further seek to adopt time-bound measures to overcome the major obstacles to progress. Institutional arrangements, financial resources, and new issues that have emerged since the 1992 Summit will also be on the agenda.

The first intergovernmental preparatory meeting will be convened around the second quarter of 2001, to be followed by three others in 2002. At the regional level, a parallel series of conferences and roundtables will be held in 2001 to pool national inputs and develop regional platforms targets. The regional preparatory process is to incorporate input from a wide range of groups and interests including local government, business, and environmental activists.

Today's roundtable is being organized as a follow-up to the Geneva Environment Network's June 2000 roundtable, which reviewed the outcome of the Malmö Global Ministerial Environment Forum. After hearing short presentations by Panel members, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the Summit preparations being planned by various Geneva-based institutions. They will also be able to exchange views on how to overcome the obstacles to implementing Agenda 21 and on how to address emerging environmental issues.

Programme

- 10:00 Coffee
- 10:30 Welcoming remarks
Introduction by moderator, Frits Schlingemann, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe
- 10:50 Panel of speakers:
- Mary Pat Silveira, Chief, Environmental Performance and Governance, UN Economic Commission for Europe
- Beat Nobs, Head, International Affairs, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
- Maritta von Bieberstein Koch-Weser, former Director General of IUCN
- Vicente Sanchez, Executive Director, South Centre
- 11:40 Discussion with panelists and participants
- 12:20 Wrap-up by moderator
- 12:30 Close