



**Providing Freshwater for All
A “World Environment Day” Roundtable
5 June 2003 – 10h-12h15**

International Environment House, Room 3

The international community has pledged to establish integrated water-resources management plans by the year 2005 and to halve the number of people who lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. This will require establishing services for an additional 1.5 billion people while strengthening protection for wetlands, forests and other ecosystems that capture, filter, store and distribute freshwater.

How can this challenge be met? What should be the respective roles of governments, the private sector, international organizations and water users? Can ambitious targets for access to water be reconciled with protection of ecosystems vital for the long-term sustainability of global water supplies?

With freshwater now high on the international agenda, this roundtable will explore the answers to these questions.

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Welcome by Frits Schlingemann, Director, Regional Office for Europe and Regional Representative, United Nations Environment Programme

10:10 Introduction by the moderator, Philippe Roch, Director, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

10:20 Presentations by Panel of Experts:

- Delmar Blasco, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Maarten Blokland, Acting Director, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
- José Maria Figueres, Senior Managing Director, World Economic Forum
- Jürg Gerber, Vice-President, Environment, Alcan Europe
- José Augusto Hueb, Water, Sanitation and Health, World Health Organization

11:10 Discussion with panelists and participants

12:05 Wrap-up by moderator

12:15 End