



TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC PARADIGM: FROM LABOUR TO RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

Paris, 4 April 2013

Salle IV - Maison de l'UNESCO

Provisional agenda

08h30 – 09h30: WELCOME TO PARTICIPANTS
(Doors will close at 9h30)

9h45 – 10h30: OPENING SESSION

Projection of the movie by Yann Arthus Bertrand

Introduction by **Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker** and **Ashok Khosla**, UNEP International Resource Panel

10h30 – 11h00: COFFEE BREAK

11h00 – 12h30: ROUND TABLE N°1
« GREEN ECONOMY AND GREEN GROWTH: FROM LABOUR TO RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY »

12h30 – 14h00: LUNCH BREAK

14h00 – 15h30: ROUND TABLE N°2
« REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS AND THE FINANCING OF A GREEN ECONOMY »

15h30 – 16h00: COFFEE BREAK

16h00 – 17h30: ROUND TABLE N°3
« GREEN INDUSTRY FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY »

17h30 – 18h00: CONCLUSIONS – CLOSING SESSION

18h00: Closing Reception

DETAILS OF THE SESSIONS

- INTRODUCTION:

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker and Ashok Khosla, UNEP International Resource Panel

A sustainable economic paradigm demands that resources be used more efficiently, reducing economic and environmental costs of resource depletion and negative environmental impacts. For this to happen, the process of decoupling economic activities from consumption and environmental impact needs to be accelerated. Such transformation will require significant changes in government policies, corporate behavior and consumption patterns, but these changes will also provide opportunities for sustainability-oriented innovation and contribute to further strengthening future human well-being.

- ROUND TABLE N° 1

« **GREEN ECONOMY AND GREEN GROWTH: FROM LABOUR TO RESOURCE PRODUCTIVITY** »

How resource scarcity can foster a new economic paradigm?

Panelists:

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Delphine Batho, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France

Janez Potočnik, Environment Commissioner, European Commission

Miguel Veiga-Pestana, Global Vice President External Affairs, Unilever

François-Michel Lambert, Representative Bouches du Rhône, Vice-president of the Commission on Sustainable Development and Territory Planning of the National Assembly, France

Jérôme Ferrier, IGU Vice President and Senior Vice-President of TOTAL

Natural resource scarcity is putting our societies at risk and the environmental effects of global resource use, such as climate change, desertification, or food shortages are threatening the security of mankind as well as undermining the stability of the world's economic and security systems. However, governments and businesses across the world are starting to react, seizing opportunities to transform to a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy.

- ROUND TABLE N° 2

« **REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS AND THE FINANCING OF A GREEN ECONOMY** »

What regulatory and policy changes would be necessary from governments and international institutions to support an increased capacity for investment required for the transition to a green economy?

Keynote speaker:

Rachel Kyte, Vice-President and Head of Network, Sustainable Development, the World Bank

Panelists:

Marcin Korolec, Minister of Environment, Poland

Annemieke Wijn, Member of the Board of Directors, Rainforest Alliance

Blaise O. Ahanhanzo Glele, Minister of Environment, Housing and Urbanism, Bénin

Jean Bernou, Chief Executive Officer, McCain Foods Europe

Dov Zerah, Chief Executive Officer, French Development Agency (AFD)

In recent years, despite the instability of international markets, a series of financial measures have been introduced to meet the criteria to transition to a green economy. These measures aim to create an environment and incentives conducive to investment in green technologies, uptake of new technologies, and the creation of carbon markets. However, before new market segments settle and stabilize over time, it is necessary to introduce new policies and tax incentive to strengthen universal confidence of funders and investors.

- ROUND TABLE N°3

« GREEN INDUSTRY FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY »

Facing a growing demand for green products and technologies, what strategies and instruments should be introduced by industry to support a green transition?

Keynote speaker:

Kandeh Yumkella, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Panelists:

Arnaud Montebourg, Minister of Industrial Renewal, France

Jean-Guy Carrier, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce, ICC

David Hasanat, Chairman, Viyella Tex Group

Balthasar Kambuaya, Minister of Environment, Indonesia

Gilles Vermot Desroches, Vice-President of Sustainable Development, Schneider Electric

The overall expansion of the industrial base is an essential component of economic development, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies. However, industry is a highly carbon and energy intensive sector, therefore depleting natural resources and limiting growth opportunities in the long term. Clean technologies and innovative infrastructure are essential to break this vicious circle and to start the transition to a green economy. In this context, this panel will discuss the issues facing industry in terms of costs and benefits associated with a green transition.

- CONCLUDING REMARKS

The closing session will focus on the prospects of green growth for the future by stressing the importance of the debate as the link between resource productivity and sustainable economic development trends in the future. At the same time, the session will stress the urgency of building a framework for formal commitments and policy recommendations. To achieve this, a final document might come out of this event to serve as the Memorandum of Understanding (the Paris Convention) between members of concerned governments, institutions and international private-sector representatives.

- RECEPTION