7th Earth Dialogues conference: Pathways into the Future, Triggers of Change

United Nations Office at Geneva, Salle 20
3 September, 2013
Introduction

The Earth Dialogues conferences are a series of public events initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev and Maurice Strong (architect of the Rio Earth Summit 1992) to mobilize public interest in pursuit of three fundamental objectives for the future of humanity: averting ecological disaster; fighting poverty; and acting to ensure truly sustainable development.

Since its first edition in Lyon in 2002, Earth Dialogues have been held in the United States, Pakistan, Spain, Australia and Brazil. This edition of the Earth Dialogues will take place on 3 September, 2013, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland, in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of Green Cross International.
Opening Session
9:30 - 10:15

Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century

The 7th edition of the Earth Dialogues, titled Pathways into the Future - Triggers of Change, comes at a time of deep, systemic crisis that is gripping the world, and threatening the future.

This conference will demonstrate how multilateralism can – and must – be recalibrated to meet these challenges, and provide a launching pad for initiatives to bolster effective coordinated action.

Geneva, with its vast record and experience in effective multilateral action, provides a perfect platform.
Panel 1  
10:15 - 11:15

Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century

Despite overwhelming scientific evidence, humanity is failing to act to contain the risks of ecological, environmental and climate disaster. This panel will provide an account of the current state of affairs and describe the case for urgent transformative action.

Panel 2  
11:15 - 12:15

Realizing Opportunities in a World in Transformation

The present path of GDP/consumption driven growth is a failed strategy, leading to environmental and human disaster. This panel will explore the radical changes required to transform our societies to access the opportunities offered by the transition to a sustainable future.
Panel 3
13:45 - 14:45

**Revitalizing multilateral cooperation and action**

**Part 1: Energy, Climate & Resources**
A strong global consensus between governments, civil society, business, religious and spiritual leaders and scientists can overcome the barriers of vested interests.

The foundation of such new multilateral governance can provide the basis for concerted and constructive action.

This panel will focus on the Energy/Climate/Resources nexus.

Panel 4
14:45 - 15:45

**Revitalizing multilateral cooperation and action**

**Part 2: Poverty, Food & Water**
A strong global consensus between governments, civil society, business, religious and spiritual leaders and scientists can overcome the barriers of vested interests.

The foundation of such new multilateral governance can provide the basis for concerted and constructive action.

This panel will focus on the Poverty/Food/Water nexus.
Panel 5
15:55 - 16:55

Building a Peaceful and Sustainable World

Humanity has the power to determine the future of civilization and of the planet. This panel will explore the current top international priorities as well as the threats that are just over the horizon, those that our children may face when they are in charge of world affairs.

Concluding Panel and Geneva Earth Dialogues Declaration
16:55 - 18:00

This high-level panel of thought leaders and former Heads of State will provide a thought provoking exchanges and perspectives on creating the conditions necessary to improve human welfare and to make a sustainable future possible.

The conference will close with the release of the “Geneva Earth Dialogues Declaration” that will outline the lines of action discussed during the sessions in order to build a Peaceful and Sustainable World.