



## **Towards and beyond Rio+20: Sustainable Development Delivery at the Regional level**

### **Introduction**

*Visualizing commitments and identifying opportunities at regional level*

This side event aims to interconnect high political representatives/managers of regional organizations, agencies and other regional mechanism working in the field of sustainable development. The complex and ambitious roadmap towards Rio+20 requires not only strong political will from parties but also an inclusive process where all stakeholders are offered the possibility to interact and commit according to their respective mandate, field of expertise, interest and capacities.

The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development requires commitments and action at all levels and in this respect it is essential to analyse the contribution of regional organizations, mechanisms and IGO's operating at regional level outside the UN system. Based on their mandate and area of expertise, this interactive round table should identify concrete opportunities and synergies for potential cooperation within their respective regions and across regions.

### **Tentative programme**

#### **Towards and beyond Rio + 20: Sustainable Development Delivery at the Regional level**

Date: 18 June

Time: 17:30-19:00

Room: T-9 at Rio Centro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Chair:** Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director, The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

#### **Keynote Speech:**

Professor Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), and former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Director, Focal Point for SDGs, Office of Executive Coordinators, Secretariat for United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

**The Asia-Europe Environment Forum Research presentation:** Ms. Ella Antonio, President, Earth Council Asia Pacific

#### **Panel discussion:**

Moderator: Ms. Sol Iglesias, Director, Intellectual Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Asian perspective: Mr. Raman Letchumanan, Head of Environment, ASEAN Secretariat  
Mr. Nessim Ahmad, Asian Development Bank (ADB); Mr. Talaibek Makeyev, Executive Director, the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CA-REC)

European perspective: Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA) / Baltic 21

American perspective: Mr. Walter Vergara, Chief Consultant on Sustainable Development, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); Representative, The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (North American States)

African perspective: Representative, African Development Bank/Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

**Wrap up and conclusions:** Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, REC

The thematic focus will be in the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) covering topics such as providing information, trainings, financial mechanisms and overall capacity building to all stakeholders - national and local administrations, civil society organizations and businesses.

The main goal will be to bring together high representatives (Executive Directors) from the main IGOs/regional organizations/mechanisms working in the field of sustainable development, particularly but not limited to the following institutions:

- African Development Bank or Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Andean Community (CAN) or Union of South American States (UNASUR)
- Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) or Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) via the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)
- European Environment Agency (EEA) or Baltic 21
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (North American States)
- The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
- The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CA-REC)

The roundtable will present, according to the main outcomes of the Rio + 20 process, an interactive discussion addressing the following questions:

- Added value of each institution in the IFSD: connecting global policy to local implementation
- Critical challenges and practical solutions at regional level towards and beyond the Rio +20 agenda: delivering on the ground and “delivering as one”
- Opportunities for improving collaboration within the region and across regions
- Elements of a roadmap for a coordinated approach

The discussion should be mainly articulated towards the means of implementation: finance and capacity building. Concrete proposals should be delivered as outcomes for further work.

## **Organisers**

Lead-partner: The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), [www.rec.org](http://www.rec.org)

Organising partner: Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

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