



# United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

## International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management World Resource Forum Davos, Switzerland 15 September 2009, 10:30 – 12:00



International Panel  
for Sustainable  
Resource Management

### 1. Preliminary agenda

The Side Event will allow WRF participants to get the latest update on the activities and latest findings of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management (Resource Panel). The session will begin with presentations from representatives of the three key groups in the project: the Secretariat, hosted by UNEP DTIE, the Steering Committee, represented by the European Commission, and the Resource Panel, represented by three Panel members. It will conclude with open discussion with participants.

- **Opening address and role of the Resource Panel:** Bas de Leeuw, Head of the Secretariat of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, UNEP
- **Understanding the policy perspective:** Werner Bosmans, DG Environment, European Commission
- **Findings of the Working Group on Biofuels:** Stefan Bringezu, Wuppertal Institute
- **Future scenarios for global material flows:** Marina Fischer Kowalski, Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna
- **Preliminary findings of the Working Group on Decoupling:** Mark Swilling, Professor, Sustainable Development Planning and Management, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

**Open discussion** with panellists and participants.

### 2. Background

The International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management (Resource Panel) is a global think tank providing scientific assessments of policy relevance on the environmental impacts of resource use on a global level. It was established in 2007 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the support of various governments and civil society organisations. The scientific assessment reports will address global issues of urgency in the sustainable resource management agenda, such as Biofuels production and Global Metal Flows. At the same time, it will assess broader, cross cutting issues at the foundation of sustainable resource management, such as decoupling environmental impacts from economic growth and identifying priority products and materials in the sustainable resource management agenda.

The Resource Panel, chaired by Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, is a multidisciplinary team of eminent scientific experts in the field of resource management from around the globe. The Resource Panel is complemented/advised by UNEP and a Steering Committee constituted of representatives from National governments and CSOs supporting the initiative. The Steering Committee plays an essential role in the process by advising on which key policy questions need a strengthened scientific basis and ensuring the relevance of the assessment reports as they are developed.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.unep.fr/scp/rpanel/>

### 3. Speaker profiles



Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Ph.D. in sociology, is professor of social ecology at Klagenfurt University and director of the Vienna based Institute of Social Ecology at the Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies (IFF). She has taught at the Institute of Advanced Studies (Vienna), Griffith (Brisbane), Roskilde (Denmark), Yale (New Haven) and at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She conducted research on quality of life and gender inequality for OECD, Paris, and is president of the International Society for Industrial Ecology (ISIE) and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research (PIK).



Professor Mark Swilling is Division Head: Sustainable Development in the School of Public Management and Planning at the University of Stellenbosch, Academic Director of the Sustainability Institute. He was co-founder, former Director and Professor of the Graduate School of Public and Development Management, University of the Witwatersrand, 1993-1997. Professor Swilling worked for PLANACT - an urban development NGO which he helped establish in 1985. After a period as Senior Researcher at the Centre for Policy Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand (1986-1990) where he focussed on state security policy, he worked on a full-time basis for PLANACT, 1990-1993, supporting the negotiations that led to the new democratic order. Professor Swilling has published several edited and co-authored books, over 60 academic articles and contributed extensively to public debate in the popular press on issues related to development, democratisation, governance, sustainable resource use, and social movements.



Stefan Bringezu is the Chair of the Working Group on biofuels. He is the Director of the 3rd Research Group of the Wuppertal Institute on Material Flows and Resource Management. Born in 1958 and trained as a biologist (Ph.D.), he started at the Wuppertal Institute with the development of methods to assess the environmental performance of products, infrastructures, regions and economies in 1992. He is responsible for research on material flows and resource management, with a focus on the analysis of the societal metabolism and the instruments to sustain the resource supply and waste management. He is a member of the German International Council for Science (ICSU) national committee for problems of the environment (SCOPE); founder of the international research network ConAccount; a founding member of the International Society for Industrial Ecology.



Werner Bosmans, a Belgian national, first graduated as a Bio-engineer at the University of Ghent, Belgium, and then did a Ph.D. in international economics in Montpellier, France. After undertaken research at the University of Ghent and at the Belgium Ministry of Agriculture, he became assistant to the Secretary-General of the Belgian and then Flemish Ministry of Agriculture. During that time he did a degree in Public Management and became part-time professor at the ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles). In 2005, he joined the Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission. He is responsible for the implementation of the Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, promoting life-cycle thinking to reduce environmental impacts.



Bas de Leeuw is head of the Integrated Resource Management Unit of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (Paris). His responsibilities are to supervise the Secretariats of the Resource Panel and the International Life Cycle Panel, a scientific panel which advises on the development and use of life cycle management tools, leading to improved decision-making for business and governments. He also supervises implementation of a four-year project on promoting ecolabelling as an opportunity for developing countries, with demonstration projects in China, India, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and Kenya. He is a macro economist of the Rotterdam Erasmus University with a specialization in energy studies (oil and gas exploration, energy efficiency). Before joining UNEP he worked for the Dutch Government (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment), SHAPE Technical Centre, the OECD and as a journalist.