

Sustainability & Multilateralism in 2015: Discussion with Policymakers & Contributions of Business

**WBCSD LD Annual Meeting
Montreux, Switzerland
Wednesday 22 April / 14:45-15:45**

Description

2015 is a critical year for sustainability in the multilateral context.

In September the United Nations will hold a summit to adopt the Post-2015 development agenda, and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) will form the basis for this global agenda from 2015-2030.

These goals and targets address a host of issues, many of which link to multilateral processes that WBCSD is engaged in from Land Degradation Neutrality (Goal 15) through the Road to Ankara & UNCCD COP12 to combating climate change (Goal 13) and access to sustainable energy (Goal 7) through the Road to Paris COP21.

This session engages policymakers from key institutions to discuss the role of business toward achieving key sustainability objectives through multilateral processes in 2015.

Invited representatives include:

Moderator

- **Peter White**, COO, WBCSD

Panel

- **Louise Baker**, External Relations & Policy, UNCCD
- **Ismail Belen**, Deputy Director General of Combating Desertification and Erosion General Directorate, Turkey Ministry of Forests & Water Affairs (MoFWA)
- **Gerard Bos**, Director Global Business and Biodiversity Programme, IUCN
- **Emmanuel Guerin**, Special Advisor, France Climate Change Ambassador and Government Special Representative for COP21
- **Dawn Rittenhouse**, Director Sustainability, DuPont Company
- **Xiangjun Yao**, Director of Geneva Liaison Office, FAO

Briefing notes moderator & panelists

Moderator

▪ **Peter White**, COO, WBCSD

14:45-14:50

Intro & framing of sustainability in context of multilateralism in 2015 and the role of business:

- Turkey is hosting UNCCD COP12 at a significant moment in international cooperation. The outcomes of COP12 are expected to advance international path being charted to eradicate poverty, under the SDGs. They are also expected to advance progress in the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) by ensuring land use practices contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- When the UN meets in NY this September they will adopt the Post-2015 development agenda, for which the SDGs will form the basis of a global agenda from 2015-2030.
- These goals and targets address a host of issues, many of which link to multilateral processes that WBCSD is engaged in from Land Degradation Neutrality (Goal 15) through the Road to Ankara & UNCCD COP12, to combating climate change (Goal 13) and access to sustainable energy (Goal 7) through to the Road to Paris COP21.
- Regarding Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) specifically, this builds on WBCSD's work toward developing landscape-level approaches and restoring degraded land, which can help generate positive impacts on landscapes at risk.
- There are more than two billion hectares where opportunities for restoration of deforested and degraded landscapes may be found – an area larger than South America. This holds the potential to not only sequester large volumes of CO₂ over the critical next 50-year period, but also to help lift people out of poverty and to provide sustainable livelihood options. This restoration will increase the resilience of ecosystems as well as societies and their economies.
- All of these environmental and social challenges are connected, and some key questions are:
 - How are these challenges addressed in international negotiations, such as the UNCCD or UNFCCC COPs?
 - How is the private sector involved in these multilateral processes and what is the complementary role they play in implementation?

Panelists

14:50-15:20

- **Ismail Belen**, Deputy Director General of Combating Desertification and Erosion General Directorate, Turkey Ministry of Forests & Water Affairs

- 2015 is an important year for Turkey. Hosting COP12 and G20. WBCSD & UNCCD are pleased to have signed a Declaration of Intention with MoFWA outlining the terms of business engagement in Ankara at the COP12. ***In the context of the COP12, what role does your ministry envision for business in contributing to global land restoration efforts and in particular to the target of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)? How can the private sector most effectively complement the government in advancing COP12 outcomes?***

- **Louise Baker**, External Relations & Policy, UNCCD

- Every two years the UNCCD hosts a COP to advance development and sustainable land management issues aimed at addressing desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss. This October in Ankara will mark the next meeting, and a Declaration of Intention is in place to ensure robust private sector participation. ***How has business engagement evolved in the UNCCD context, and what key issues can the private sector bring to advance the COP12 outcomes?***

- **Xiangjun Yao**, Director of Geneva Liaison Office, FAO

- As a representative from the UN Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), an office which works closely with Amina Mohammed (UNSG Special Adviser on Post2015 Development Planning), ***please outline how the Post-2015 process and the SDGs relating to LDN and climate change will feed into the UNCCD COP12 and UNFCCC COP21, respectively?***

- **Gerard Bos**, Director Global Business and Biodiversity Programme, IUCN

- As the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO Members, the IUCN also engages in international processes such as the UNCCD or the UNFCCC negotiations. The IUCN is now preparing for the World Conservation Congress in 2016. ***How is IUCN connecting the COP agendas and the global conservation agenda you are developing at IUCN? And as the head of the Business & Biodiversity Programme, how do you see the role of business in these multilateral processes?***

- **Emmanuel Guerin**, Special Advisor, France Climate Change Ambassador and Government Special Representative COP21

- France plays a critical role in 2015. Outcomes at the COP21 in Paris at the end of the year will build upon important outcomes from New York (SDGS) and Ankara (COP12), informing key aspects of a global climate agreement. ***How do you see these processes converging to make Paris a success, and do you see a role for coherence from business?***

▪ **Dawn Rittenhouse**, Director Sustainability, DuPont Company

- DuPont is actively engaged in a number of WBCSD business solutions that link to key areas of the UNCCD and UNFCCC agendas. In addition, DuPont is an integral contributor to the Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) business solution that contributes to both the land restoration and climate agendas. **Can you explain why DuPont is engaged in CSA and how you think these high level processes relate to scaling-up this solution? Have you seen the role of business in these multilateral processes evolving over the years, and what are your projections for this role in the future?**

Q&A

15:20-15:40

Closing & wrap-up

15:40 – 15:45