



State of the Planet 06

Is Sustainable Development Feasible?

March 28–29, 2006

Columbia University





State of the Planet 06

Is Sustainable Development Feasible?

The Earth Institute at Columbia University will convene the fourth biennial State of the Planet conference to discuss the feasibility of sustainable development for billions of people worldwide.

Internationally renowned scholars and opinion leaders will lead discussions, present ideas, and outline research throughout this two-day forum, which seeks to explore the fundamental requirements of science, economy, governance and human behavior needed to achieve sustainable development.

The conference will include an in-depth analysis of:

Research and Ingenuity

How can research protect and provide resources for energy, water and biodiversity, particularly as they are affected by or contribute to climate change?

Tapping into Market Forces and the Economy

What are the strengths and limits of free market mechanisms versus government regulation in achieving sustainable development?

Developing Effective Institutional Structures

What are the strengths and weaknesses of global governance in tackling issues of sustainable development?

Challenging Behavioral Patterns and Perspectives

Will societies, with all of their complex social, cultural and religious components, need to modify their behaviors to achieve sustainable development?





Tuesday, March 28, 2006

*Roone Arledge Auditorium, Alfred Lerner Hall, Columbia University
2920 Broadway (between 114th & 115th Streets), New York, NY*

8:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Welcome

John C. Mutter, Deputy Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University; Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Columbia University; Chair, State of the Planet Conference Steering Committee

9:15 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Lee C. Bollinger, President, Columbia University

9:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker

Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University; Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University; Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

10:00 a.m.

SESSION ONE: RESEARCH AND INGENUITY

Moderator

Darcy B. Kelley, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor of Biological Sciences, Columbia University; Chair, Frontiers of Science, Columbia College

Mobilizing Research and Ingenuity for Sustainable Options

Ismail Serageldin, Director, Library of Alexandria in Egypt

Science, Technology and Innovation for Global Sustainability through the Millennium Development Goals

Dato Lee Yee-Cheong, President, World Federation of Engineering Organisations 2003-05; Co-Coordinator, UN Millennium Project "Science, Technology and Innovation" Task Force; Senior Fellow, Academy of Sciences Malaysia

10:55 a.m.

Break

11:10 a.m.

SESSION ONE (CONTINUED)

Climate Prediction on Timescales of Seasons to Decades: A Requirement for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century

Tim Palmer, Head of Probability Forecast Division, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast

Mobilizing Research and Ingenuity for the World's Needs

Steven E. Koonin, Chief Scientist, BP p.l.c.

Mobilizing Science and Technology for Sustainable Development of Water and Land Resources

Frank Rijsberman, Director General, International Water Management Institute

12:10 p.m.

Discussion

12:45 p.m.

Lunch Break

2:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker

Reforming the UN System to Help Meet the MDGs

Mark Malloch Brown, Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General, United Nations

2:30 p.m.

SESSION TWO: DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

Moderator

Albert Fishlow, Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Director, Institute for Latin American Studies (ILAS), Columbia University

The Serious Business of Children

Carol Bellamy, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Learning; Former Executive Director, UNICEF

Needed Reforms to International Economic Governance for Development

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Evolving Institutional Structures for Sustainable Development: Connecting Macro Policy with Grassroots Action

Rajendra K. Pachauri, Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute; Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

3:35 p.m.

Break

4:00 p.m.

SESSION TWO (CONTINUED)

Environmental Enforcement in Market-based Economies

Eric V. Schaeffer, Director, Environmental Integrity Project

The UN Global Compact: A Voluntary Approach to Connecting Global Policy with Local Business Action

Georg Kell, Executive Head, United Nations Global Compact

4:40 p.m.

Discussion

5:15 p.m.

Keynote Speaker

Changing Values for a Sustainable World

Peter Singer, Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University

5:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Jeffrey D. Sachs



Wednesday, March 29, 2006

*Roone Arledge Auditorium, Alfred Lerner Hall, Columbia University
2920 Broadway (between 114th & 115th Streets), New York, NY*

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
John C. Mutter

9:05 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Jeffrey D. Sachs

9:15 a.m. **Keynote Speaker**
**Managing Risk in an Uncertain Climate:
A Reinsurer's Perspective**
John Coomber, Retired Chief Executive Officer,
Swiss Re Group

9:45 a.m. **SESSION THREE: TAPPING INTO MARKET FORCES
AND THE ECONOMY**

Moderator
David H. Nissen, Director, Program in International Energy
Management and Policy at the Center for Energy, Marine
Transportation and Public Policy, Professor in Practice,
School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Financial Markets at the Crossroads
Abby Joseph Cohen, Partner and Chief U.S. Investment
Strategist, Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Climate, Coal and the Car of the Future
Joseph Romm, Executive Director, Center for Energy
and Climate Solutions

Is Sustainable

Enterprise as a Driver of Sustainable Development

Stuart L. Hart, Samuel C. Johnson Chair in Sustainable Global Enterprise, Professor of Management, Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University

10:50 a.m.

Break

11:05 a.m.

SESSION THREE (CONTINUED)

Sustainable Development: A Business Opportunity— One Publisher's Perspective

David J. Refkin, Director of Sustainable Development, Time Inc.

Financial Institutions: Challenges and Opportunities

Amy Davidsen, Director of Environmental Affairs, JPMorgan Chase

11:45 a.m.

Discussion

12:20 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:35 p.m.

SESSION FOUR: CHALLENGING BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS AND PERSPECTIVES

Moderator

Roberta G. Balstad, Director, Center for International Earth Science Information Network, The Earth Institute at Columbia University

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Education in Developing Countries

Joel E. Cohen, Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of Populations, Rockefeller University; Professor of Populations, Columbia University; Head of the Laboratory of Populations, The Earth Institute at Columbia University and Rockefeller University

Discounting Global Warming

Sir Partha Dasgupta, Frank Ramsey Professor of Economics, University of Cambridge; Fellow of St. John's College

A New Perspective on Water Poverty and Sustainability: Green and Blue Water Options to Attain the MDGs

Johan Rockström, Executive Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

2:40 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m.

SESSION FOUR (CONTINUED)

The Globalization of Green Values: The Culture and Politics of Sustainability

Denis Hayes, President, The Bullitt Foundation; National Organizer of the first Earth Day

Exploring the Practical Challenges of Creating Positive Change in Development

Parker Mitchell, Co-CEO and Co-Founder, Engineers Without Borders

nt Feasible?

Ecosystem Collapse and Sustainable Development

Andrew Dobson, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology,
Princeton University

4:00 p.m.

Discussion

4:40 p.m.

SUMMATION: IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FEASIBLE?

Moderator

John Rennie, Editor in Chief, *Scientific American*

Panelists

Joel E. Cohen

Abby Joseph Cohen

Sir Partha Dasgupta

Nicholas D. Kristof, Columnist, *The New York Times*

Rajendra K. Pachauri

Jeffrey D. Sachs

5:15 p.m.

Conference Closing Remarks

Jeffrey D. Sachs



The Earth Institute at Columbia University is the world's leading academic center for the integrated study of Earth, its environment and society. The Earth Institute builds upon excellence in the core disciplines—earth sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, social sciences and health sciences—and stresses cross-disciplinary approaches to complex problems. Through its research, training and global partnerships, it mobilizes science and technology to advance sustainable development, while placing special emphasis on the needs of the world's poor.

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