

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Paris Climate Agreement: Can they be reconciled?

Agenda Alpbach-Laxenburg Group Meeting 2018

Honorary Chair: H.E. Heinz Fischer, former President of the Republic of Austria

Special invited guests (tbc):

Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

Elisabeth Köstinger, Federal Minister of Sustainability and Tourism, Austria

Sunday, 26 August 2018

Venue: Congress Centre Alpbach, August Friedrich von Hayek Room, Ground floor

Time	Agenda point	Roles (tentative)
14:00-14:10	Welcome and introductions	<u>Honorary Chair:</u> H.E. Heinz Fischer
14:10-14:30	Setting the scene	<u>Addresses by:</u> Franz Fischler Pavel Kabat Jeffrey Sachs
14:30-14:45	Systems perspectives on climate and biodiversity	<u>Brief Presentation by:</u> Michael Obersteiner
14:45-15:00	State of biodiversity science in support of the CBD: Lessons learned from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and beyond	<u>Brief Presentation by:</u> Albert van Jaarsveld
15:00-15:30	Discussion	<u>Chair/Moderator:</u> Pavel Kabat
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	

<p>16:00-16:45</p>	<p>Enabling institutional frameworks: the role of global and national governance</p> <p>The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. However, measures aimed at limiting global warming to well below 2 C, may result in substantial trade-offs with efforts focusing on reversing the loss of biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Key questions:</u></p> <p><i>Is the existing multilateral policy architecture built around the Rio Conventions fit for purpose to effectively solve competing policy objectives?</i></p> <p><i>How can the science advisory mechanisms (e.g. IPCC, IPBES) be improved to facilitate the identification of trade-offs and to capitalize on these?</i></p> <p><i>How can the SDG agenda be used to facilitate the implementation of integrated climate and biodiversity policies at the national level?</i></p>	<p><u>Chair/Moderator:</u> Irina Bokova</p> <p><u>Initial Statements by:</u> Jeffrey Sachs Pavel Kabat Kim Won-soo Ugo Bardi</p>
<p>16:45-17:30</p>	<p>Role of international trade in managing impacts on climate and biodiversity</p> <p>Trade has the potential to catalyze or hinder necessary socioeconomic transformations to meet global sustainability objectives. Trade agreements may promote the adoption of environmental standards and sustainable practices. But countries may also succeed in reducing pressure on the local environment by exporting their ecological footprint abroad, as their continuous domestic demand for natural assets is satisfied through increased imports of goods from abroad.</p> <p><u>Key questions:</u></p> <p><i>How can the international trade system help advance (transboundary) solutions for climate change and biodiversity?</i></p> <p><i>Which are the risks (or benefits) that the current political climate on trade policy poses for climate and biodiversity?</i></p> <p><i>Which role can multinational companies and international NGOs play in this context?</i></p>	<p><u>Chair/Moderator::</u> Pascal Lamy</p> <p><u>Initial Statements by:</u> Geneviève Pons Michael Obersteiner Jan Marco Müller</p>
<p>17:30-18:15</p>	<p>Developing coherent approaches to finance and business engagement</p> <p>Adequate funds for incentivizing and de-risking economic transformation towards environmental sustainability are essential. A great variety of financing mechanisms exist to address climate and biodiversity issues at local to international scales, including, inter alia, bi- and multilateral funds, market based mechanisms, fiscal</p>	<p><u>Chair/Moderator::</u> Guido Schmidt-Traub</p> <p><u>Initial Statements by:</u> Irene Giner-Reichl</p>

	<p>reforms, and philanthropy. Yet this proliferation of funding instruments poses also a challenge to integrate efforts. Climate funding may promote and also support co-benefits for biodiversity conservation and vice-versa, but it remains a challenge to build substantial programs and initiatives that address various environmental issues on equal footing and within a broader development context. Also, integrated solutions to climate and biodiversity challenges will only become mainstream if they find broader public support and are also capable of transforming business practice and investments.</p> <p><u>Key questions:</u></p> <p><i>In light of the multitude of stakeholders and instruments, is it illusory to call for more integrated financing platforms?</i></p> <p><i>Which actors need to be strengthened to move from project and programmatic finance to transformative investments?</i></p>	<p>Albert van Jaarsveld Frank Sperling</p>
18:15-18:45	Conclusions and ALG Open Letter	<p><u>Moderator:</u> Pavel Kabat & Ryan Heath</p>

19:30-21:30	Alpbach Laxenburg Group Dinner Pensant	Hotel Alpbacherhof
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Monday, 27 August 2018

<p><i>Possible participation in different sessions of the Political Symposium. Sessions recommended to attend to support the discourse of the Alpbach Laxenburg Group Retreat:</i></p>		
10:00-12:30	<i>Breakout Session 12: Defending democracy in the digital age: From theory to practice</i>	<i>Hauptschule</i>
10:30-12:30	<i>Breakout Session 13: The end of oil: Global systems in transition</i>	<i>Hauptschule</i>
10:30-12:30	<i>Breakout Session 14: Are you acting or reacting? Countering climate change through new partnerships</i>	<i>Hauptschule</i>
10:30-12:30	<i>Breakout Session 16: Promoting sustainable development</i>	<i>Hauptschule</i>
10:30-12:30	<i>Breakout Session 17: Democracies under pressure: The media and populism</i>	<i>Hauptschule</i>

18:15-19:15	The future of the EU: Priorities of the Austrian EU Council Presidency Gain behind-the-scenes insights into the current EU Council Presidency in a discussion with the Austrian Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz. (this session will be in German)	Alpbach Congress Center, Elisabeth Herz Kermenak Hall
21:30-23:00	Reception hosted by Forum Alpbach for all partner organizations of the Forum	Böglerhof ALG participants are welcome

Tuesday, 28 August 2018

11:00-12:30	<p>Plenary session: "Reconciling (bio)diversity protection and efforts to mitigate climate change" in cooperation with IIASA - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis:</p> <p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Paris Climate Agreement: Can they be reconciled?</p> <p>Honorary Chair: H.E. Heinz Fischer, former President of the Republic of Austria</p> <p>Moderator: Pavel Kabat (Director-General/CEO International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis IIASA)</p> <p>Panelists: Irina Bokova (former Director General of UNESCO, Board Member of the Ban Ki-Moon Centre) David Nabarro (former Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General) Kristin Vala Ragnarsdottir (Club of Rome & University of Reykjavik) Angel Gurría (Secretary-General of OECD) – tbc</p>	Alpbach Congress Center, Elisabeth Herz Kermenak Hall
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