

# How can human rights contribute to the protection of the environment ?

Thursday 22 September 2016, 10:00-12:00, International Environment House II

You are cordially invited to attend a panel discussion on how can human rights contribute usefully to the protection of the environment.

On 13 September, the UN Special Rapporteur “on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes”, Baskut Tuncak, will present his report to the Human Rights Council on the rights of Children affected by hazardous substances and wastes. On 20-21 September, the UN Special Rapporteur “on human rights and environment”, John Knox, will conduct an expert meeting on biodiversity and human rights, in the perspective of the report he will present to the Human Rights Council in March 2017. The Paris Agreement on climate change adopted in December 2015 includes a number of strong preamble references to human rights, for which 27 UN Special rapporteur had made a joint call in 2014.

In the presence of the two Special Rapporteurs mentioned above and of some or the heads of environmental international organizations, the latest contributions of the human rights field to the protection of the environment will be reviewed. Questions, challenges and achievements concerning the strengthening of the relation between these two fields will also be discussed.

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

10:00

Coffee & Tea

10:15

### Welcome

Barbara RUIS, Legal Officer, UN Environment Regional Office for Europe

10:20

### Panel Discussion

#### *Human Rights contribution to the protection of the environment*

John KNOX, UN Special Rapporteur “on human rights and environment”

Baskut TUNCAK, UN Special Rapporteur “on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes”

Achim HALPAAP, Chief, UN Environment Chemicals and Waste Branch

Maria NEIRA, Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization (tbc)

Zaal LOMTADZE, Chief, Environment for Europe and Sustainable Development Section, Environment Division, UNECE

Gonzalo OVIEDO, Senior advisor, Social Policy Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature

11:20

### Questions and comments

11:50

### Closing remarks

Nora KONIG, Councilor, Switzerland Permanent Mission to the United Nation Office in Geneva

## Registration form

You are cordially invited to participate in this event.

We would be grateful if you could indicate your participation in advance by completing this form and returning it by 20 September 2016 to the address below by email ([gen.secretary@unep.org](mailto:gen.secretary@unep.org)) or [register online](#). Please note that English is the working language of this event.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Geneva Environment Network (GEN) is a cooperative partnership of over 75 environment and sustainable development organizations based at the International Environment House and elsewhere in the Geneva area, including United Nations offices and programmes, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and academic institutions.*

*Set up in 1999, the GEN secretariat, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, actively promotes increased cooperation and networking between its members.*