



# IHDP Open Meeting 2009

7th International  
Science Conference on the  
Human Dimensions of  
Global Environmental Change

26-30 April 2009  
World Conference Center Bonn  
UN Campus  
Bonn, Germany

## The Social Challenges of Global Change

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## Press Release

*Bonn, 1 April 2009.* – More than 1000 scientists and decision-makers from 77 countries are planning to take part of the 7th Open Meeting of the International Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, “Social Challenges of Global Change”, which will take place at the World Conference Center in Bonn on 26-30 April, 2009. With extremely geographically and professionally varied backgrounds, the mix of researchers presenting at the IHDP Open Meeting 2009 will undoubtedly assure a motivating and rewarding dialogue in this, the biggest UN conference in Germany. Of these scientists, 36 percent are woman and a remarkable 34 percent of all the participants come from developing countries.

The 7th Open Meeting’s presenters are affiliated with more than 380 universities and institutions. Many of them are among the world’s most respected institutions conducting and supporting research on the social aspects of global environmental change. The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature in Japan, Arizona State University in the United States and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands will be among the universities with the strongest representation.

### Events Open to the General Public

Besides the scientific sessions (see “Four Major Challenges”), several free events, open to the general public, will take place at the conference starting at 6 PM every day. The media coverage of environmental news, the role of science in the 21st Century, the importance of e-Health

and Telemedicine to address global change-related illnesses, the struggle of Small Island States to cope and adapt to climate change and the delicate balance between sustainability and equity will be the themes analyzed in this series of high level panels and dynamic round tables. You will find more information about our public events in this Press Kit and at [www.openmeeting2009.org](http://www.openmeeting2009.org)

### The Open Meeting Participants

To provide a preview of the profile of the participants that will be attending the conference, IHDP has compiled statistics about their ages, countries of origins and institutional affiliation. Please find them in the attached Annex.

### Four Major Social Challenges

Four major social challenges of global environmental change will be addressed by world top scientists, politicians and even businessmen during the conference:

#### 1. How do we deal with demographic challenges?

The almost exponential increase of the world population in the last century is part and parcel of the global changes we are experiencing, but is generally hardly discussed as such. Yet the demographic explosion poses several major challenges. From an economic perspective (“Who will pay for increasingly expensive health care of growing societies and, in many parts of the world, aging population?”), to that of food security (“How many more people



can we feed and at which level of food consumption?”), to that of urbanization (“How do we manage the growing number of cities with over 20 million inhabitants?”), etc. We urgently need to posit such difficult questions as “How real is the predicted reduction in population growth rate after the middle of this century?”

## **2. How do we deal with limitations of resources and ecosystem services?**

The relationship between society and its environment has thus far been the main emphasis of IHDP: resource depletion and replacement, reduction of consumption of energy, water and other resources, reduction of waste production, preservation of ecosystem services, etc. But we now need to include the core challenges to be overcome to avoid an environmental disaster of unequalled proportions. We need to ask such questions as: “Can we achieve sustainability through technological innovation, or do we need to make more profound changes?,” “How do we transform the economic basis of our society into a sustainable one?,” or “How do we promote a different cultural and social attitude to the environment in general?”

## **3. How do we establish social cohesion while increasing equity at various levels?**

Finding creative ways to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of the benefits and vulnerabilities associated with the social challenges of global change is pivotal. Some underlying principles of the world’s societies are based on a strong notion of equity, while others are based on economic competition or kinds of inequities.

## **4. How do we adapt institutions to address global change?**

Such questions pose profound challenge to contemporary forms of governance. At some level, this challenge has been recognized in the effort to create indicators of sustainable development, quantitative measures that enable decision makers to factor in elements of sustainability into decisions that might otherwise have relied solely on economic criteria. But the challenge to governance goes deeper than just creating new indicators. New governance processes are required that can facilitate the inclusion of new kinds of information, new values, and new

voices into decision-making. This, in return, requires new institutional settings and, prior to that, adaptability of current institutions. New kinds of arrangements must be made to rebalance the relationship between formal and informal institutions, consequently between citizens and experts, acknowledging that citizens hold valuable knowledge that is key to creating sustainable communities at all levels of society from the village to the globe.

## **Media Coverage and Accreditations**

If you would like to participate of the conference, interview some of our keynote speakers and/or cover the presentations and special events, please contact Mrs Gabriela Litre at [litre@ihdp.unu.edu](mailto:litre@ihdp.unu.edu).

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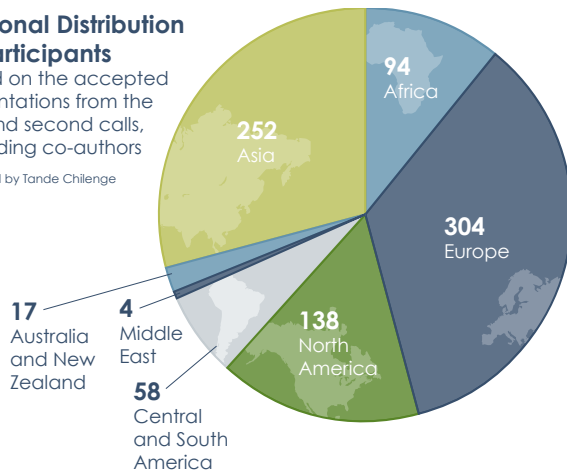
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# The Open Meeting 2009 in Numbers

## Regional Distribution of Participants

Based on the accepted presentations from the first and second calls, excluding co-authors

Prepared by Tande Chilenge



## Developed and Developing Countries Represented

Based on accepted submissions from the first and second calls. Development status defined according to UN sources.

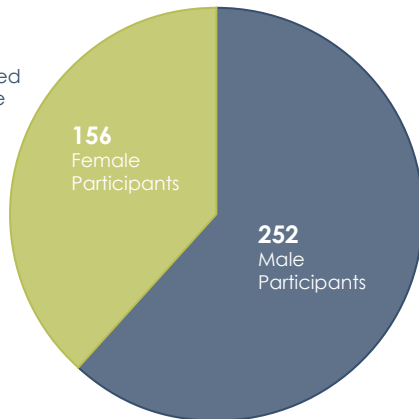
Prepared by Tande Chilenge



## Gender Ratio of Participants

Based on the accepted presentations from the first and second calls, excluding co-authors

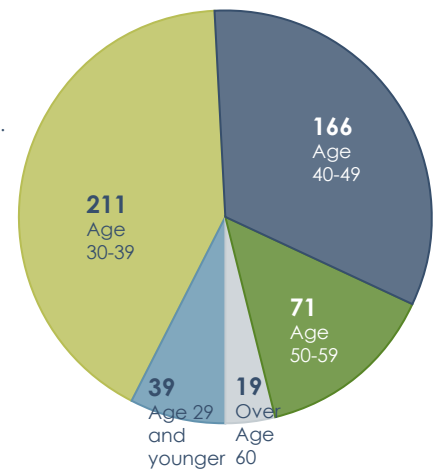
Prepared by Tande Chilenge



## Age Groups of Participants

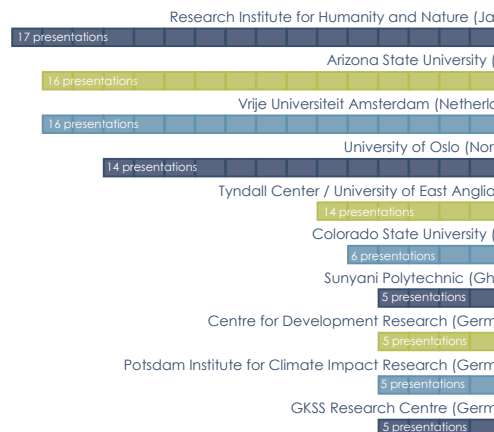
Based on accepted submissions from the first and second calls. (excluding 13% who did not provide their birthdate)

Prepared by Tande Chilenge



## Most Represented Institutions

Based on the accepted presentations from the first and second calls.





# IHDP Open Meeting 2009

7th International Science Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change  
26-30 April 2009, World Conference Center Bonn, UN Campus, Bonn, Germany

## The Social Challenges of Global Change

14:00 - Registration, arrival, set-up

19:00 - Official Welcome Reception  
Hosted by the Lady Mayor of Bonn, Ms. Bärbel Dieckmann.  
Venue: Deutsche Welle

### Monday Grand Opening & Demographic Challenges

8:30 - Registration

9:00 - Opening Ceremony  
Session Chair: Dr Andreas Rechkemmer

Welcome Address	Introductory Address
Prof Frieder Meyer-Krahmer State Secretary BMBF	Prof Hebe Vessuri Chair of Council UNU
Welcome Address	Keynote Address
Prof Oran Young Chair, IHDP Scientific Committee	Prof Yanhua Liu Vice-Minister for Science & Technology, China
Welcome Address	Keynote Address
Dr Heide Hackmann Secretary-General, ISSC - on behalf of ICSU and ISSC	Prof Hans Joachim Schellnhuber PIK Director

ca.10:30 - Refreshment Break

11:00 - Plenary Session - Social Challenges & Demographics  
Session Chair: Lori Hunter

Flavia Pansieri Executive Coordinator UNV	Prof Xizhe Peng Fudan University, Institute Director
N.N.	Prof Wolfgang Lutz Leader, World Population Program, IIASA

12:30 - Lunch

14:00 - Parallel Sessions

15:30 - Refreshment Break

16:00 - Parallel Sessions

17:30 - Break

18:00 - Roundtables  
Science for the 21st Century

Poster Session

19:00 - Social Events

### Tuesday Resources & Technological Innovation

8:30 - Registration

9:00 - Plenary Session - Resources & Technological Innovation  
Session Chair: Prof Frans Berkhout

Michael Müller Parliamentary State Secretary BMU	Prof Ernst von Weizsäcker IHDP Scientific Committee Member
Prof Richard Tol Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland	Prof Ortwin Renn <sup>1</sup> and Mr Christopher Bunting <sup>2</sup> 1) Director of DIALOGIK, 2) Secretary General IRGC
Frans Berkhout Professor of Innovation and Sustainability and Director, Institute for Environmental Studies/Instituut voor Milieuvraagstukken (IVM), Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam	

10:30 - Refreshment Break

11:00 - Special Sessions

Vulnerability, Resilience and Adaptation IHDP and UNU-EHS	Industrial Transformations Synthesis Industrial Transformation Project (IT)
Global Change and Human Health: Preparedness and Surveillance ESSP Joint Project on Global Environmental Change and Human Health/ GECHH, IHDP Global Change and Human Health Advisory Group and IIGU Commission on Health and the Environment.	Risk Governance Under Global Change Integrated Risk Governance Pilot Project (IRG), IHDP Chinese National Committee (CNC-IHDP)

12:30 - Lunch

14:00 - Parallel Sessions

15:30 - Refreshment Break

16:00 - Parallel Sessions

17:30 - Break

18:00 - Roundtables  
Technological Innovation  
Media Roundtable "Catastrophe Sells"  
Global Change and Human Health: The Role of E-Health and Telemedicine  
Integrative Approaches in Global Change Research - The Experience with Different Integration Methods  
The new IHDP research projects and initiatives, ESG, IRG, KLSC

Poster Session

19:00 - Social Events

### Wednesday Social Equity, Cohesion & Sustainable Adaptation

8:30 - Registration

9:00 - Plenary Session - Social Equity, Cohesion & Sustainable Adaptation  
Session Chair: Prof Martin Parry

Wolfgang Schmitt Managing Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit	Dessima William Aosis Representative
Martin Parry Professor and Co-Chair of Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, UK	Dr Robin Mearns World Bank, Lead Specialist and Team Leader Social Dimensions of Global Change
	Dr Walter Ammann President, Global Risk Forum (GRF) Davos

10:30 - Refreshment Break

11:00 - Special Sessions

The Social Dimensions of Climate Change World Bank	Sustainable Water Management - the key for adaptation BMU
Human Security in the 21st Century Global Environmental Change and Human Security Project (GECHS)	Synthesizing Knowledge of the Natural, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)

12:30 - Lunch

14:00 - Parallel Sessions

15:30 - Refreshment Break

16:00 - Parallel Sessions

17:30 - Break

18:00 - Roundtables  
Global Equity, Local Needs  
Adaptive Governance: The Case of Small Island States

Poster Session

19:00 - Social Events

### Thursday Adaptive Institutions & Governance

8:30 - Registration

9:00 - Plenary Session - Adaptive Institutions & Governance  
Session Chair: Prof Michael Zürn

Prof Roberto Guimarães IHDP Scientific Committee	Prof Jan Pronk Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
Dr Laurence Tubiana Director of IDDRI	Mark Fulton Managing Director, Global Head of Climate Change Investment Research, Deutsche Bank
	Prof Oran Young Chair of IHDP Scientific Committee

10:30 - Refreshment Break

11:00 - Special Sessions

Human Dimensions of Climate Change IHDP, WCRP	Financing Adaptation to Climate Change: What's the Role for Europe? EADI, EDC2020
Knowledge, Learning and Societal Change KLSC Initiative, IHDP	

12:30 - Lunch

14:00 - Parallel Sessions

15:30 - Refreshment Break

16:00 - Parallel Sessions

17:45 - 18:30 Closing Ceremony  
Session Chair: Andreas Rechkemmer

Important Announcements  
Valedictory Address  
Prof Oran Young  
Chair, IHDP Scientific Committee

# Public Events

The opinions and voices of the general public are vital to strengthening the bridge between scientific research and social transformation. This is why we have organized several free events open to the general public during the conference. The media coverage of environmental news, the role of science in the 21st Century, the importance of e-Health and Telemedicine to address global change-related illnesses, the struggle of Small Island States to cope and adapt to climate change and the delicate balance between sustainability and equity will be the themes analyzed in this series of high level panels and dynamic round tables.



“Addressing the Social Challenges of Global Change – The Role of Science in the 21st Century”

Venue: World Conference Center Bonn, Plenary Hall

Date: 27 April 2009

Time: 18:00-20:00

Moderator: James Painter, BBC World Service and Reuters Institute, Oxford

Panelists:

- Oran R. Young, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Chair, IHDP Scientific Committee
- Frieder Meyer-Krahmer, State Secretary BMBE, Germany
- Liu Yanhua, Vice-Minister for Science & Technology, China
- Katrina Brown, University of East-Anglia, UK and

IHDP Scientific Committee Member

- Carlo Jaeger, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany
- Xuemei Bai, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Australia
- James L. Buizer, Arizona State University, U.S.A.
- Gernot Klepper, Kiel Institute of World Economics, Germany, and IHDP Scientific Committee Member
- Roger Kasperson, Graduate School of Geography Clark University, USA

The round table, “Addressing the Social Challenges of Global Change – the role of Science in the 21st Century”, will provide a platform for representatives from the human dimensions community and its partners to exchange views on the role of their science in effectively meeting the challenges of global change in the new century. Whether it is about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, changing unsustainable resource management or addressing systemic changes such as energy or production and consumption patterns, human actions lie at the bottom of all these phenomena. In order to address these challenges effectively, a better understanding of both the sources of human behavior and the environments that enable the transformation of good intent into action seems to be more crucial than ever before.



“Catastrophe Sells – Debating the Media Coverage of Environmental News”

Venue: World Conference Center Bonn, Plenary Hall

Date: 28 April 2009

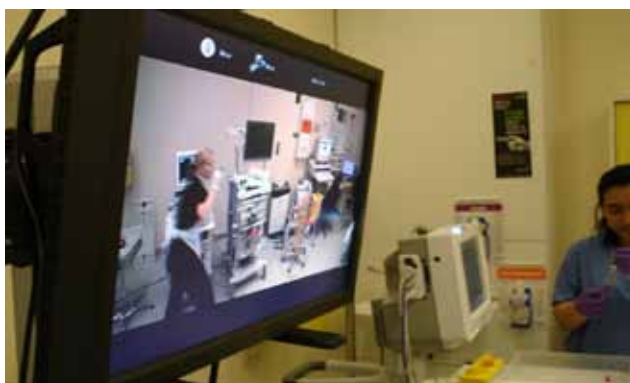
Time: 18:00-20:00

Moderator: Irene Quaille-Kersken, Head of Feature and Magazine Programming and Senior Editor and Host: Living Planet, Deutsche Welle World.

Panelists:

- Ortwin Renn - University of Stuttgart and President of Dialogik
- James Painter - BBC World Service and Reuters Institute, Oxford
- Ranjitha Balasubramanyam - Deutsche Welle Radio, Bonn
- Walter Ammann President - Global Risk Forum, Davos
- Stefan Krug - Spokesman, Greenpeace Germany
- Richard Klein - Climate Change Specialist - Stockholm Environment Institute - SEI

As the public's window to the world, the media must simplify complex matters without distorting meaning and stories must catch the public's attention while not succumbing to overt sensationalization. At the same time, highly important issues must be given their due coverage while not deafening the public with their frequency. The Deutsche Welle supported media table "Catastrophe Sells" will focus on the difficulties the media faces in reporting environmental challenges. Top scientists and journalists from all over the world will try to answer the following questions: How can the media ensure the continued salience and urgency of a message that is ongoing in nature without resorting to sensationalism? How can positive societal change be both encouraged and reported while retaining public interest? What will it take to move away from a focus on what is happening to a focus on how we can change it? How can scientists make their results more easily understood and accessible to the media? How can the media, in turn, more accurately represent the science, which tends to progress in smaller increments as opposed to spectacular breakthroughs?



"Lavandoo/GEOMED Roundtable on Global Change and Human Health: The role of e-health and Telemedicine"

Venue: BMZ, Nelson Mandela

Date: 29 April 2009

Time: 18:00-20:00

Moderator:

Prof. Mark Rosenberg (co-Chair, ESSP-GECHH), and Dr. Thomas Krafft (Chair, IHDP Global Change and Human Health Advisory Group)

Panelists:

- Prof. Björn Bergh, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- Prof. Stefan F. Winter, CompuGroup Holding AG, Koblenz, Germany
- Uma Nath Varahabhotla (Emergency and Management Research Institute, Hyderabad, India)

Telemedicine is a rapidly developing application of clinical medicine where medical information is transferred via telephone, the Internet or other networks for the purpose of consulting, and sometimes remote medical procedures or examinations, while e-Health is a relatively recent term for healthcare practice which is supported by electronic processes and communication. This roundtable, sponsored by Lavandoo and Geomed, closes the Health Day activities at the Open Meeting focusing on these two innovative approaches to health care. International experts from all fields will provide insights and the main trajectories of research and practice. Telemedicine and e-Health are already and will be components of baseline health care services now and into the future. In order to guarantee health care for all, telemedicine and e-health applications have a huge potential, not only in the industrialized world, but also in the developing world playing a significant role in the future of health services in a changing world.



## “Adaptive Governance: The Case of Small Island States”

Venue: Deutsche Welle

Date: 29 April 2009

Time: 18:00-20:00

Moderator:

Martin Parry, former Co-chair, IPCC Working Group II (WGII) on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

Panelists: UN Ambassadors from Small Island States

The combination of climate characteristics and their particular socio-economic situations makes many Small Island States some of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. However, these countries produce extremely low levels of greenhouse gas emissions and though they hardly contribute to climate change they disproportionately suffer the consequent damaging impacts for instance, through drought, loss of coral reefs due to bleaching and reduction in freshwater resource availability due to decreased rainfall and salt water intrusion. This high level panel will explain why Small Island States can be viewed as ‘laboratories’, providing significant and useful insights into impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation options, to be shared with other countries less directly or severely affected by climate change.



## “Global Equity, Local Needs”

Venue: World Conference Center Bonn, Plenary Hall

Date: 29 April 2009

Time: 18:00-20:00

Moderator: Susanne Moser, Susanne Moser & Consulting, Santa Cruz, California and University of California-Santa Cruz

Panelists:

- Ursula Oswald Spring - Regional Centre of Multidisciplinary Research at the National University of Mexico (CRIM-UNAM)
- Flavia Pansieri - United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Germany
- Hebe Vessuri - Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas, Venezuela; Chair, United Nations University (UNU) Council; Vice Chair, IHDP Scientific Committee
- Robin Mearns - Social Development Department, World Bank, USA

Inequity, both among people and nations, is among the greatest challenges of our times and the global environmental change agenda can only fully be understood, if these social dimensions are part of the analysis. While global equity can be easily understood as a general norm or guideline that steers our actions towards greater sustainability, its implementation is often place specific and its obstacles have to be overcome case by case. We can only move towards sustainability, if equity is met at various levels. This round table will take advantage of the presence of leading scientists and practitioners who strive for global equity. They will provide different case studies from their own research and experience background, shedding light on the topic from different angles. In doing so, they will make a strong case for the inclusion of these questions into the global environmental change agenda, since otherwise a key section of the human dimensions concept is simply neglected.

# Keynote Speakers & Moderators

The IHDP Open Meeting 2009 has gathered an impressive line-up of prominent people from scientific, political and societal backgrounds to be keynote speakers at the event. Keynote speakers will present each morning of the conference, focussing on the daily theme as a kick off for the day, as well as in special sessions throughout the conference. We are happy to share our preliminary list below.

27 April 2009



Heide Hackmann  
Secretary-General, International Social Science Council (ISSC) – on behalf of International Council for Science (ICSU) and ISSC, France



Lori Hunter  
Associate Professor, Sociology and Environmental Studies Faculty Research Associate, Institute of Behavioral Science, Programs on Population, Environment & Society, USA



Yanhua Liu  
Vice-Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, China



Wolfgang Lutz  
Leader, World Population Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria



Frieder Meyer-Krahmer  
State Secretary, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF), Germany



Flavia Pansieri  
Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Germany



Xizhe Peng  
Dean, School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University, Shanghai, China

28 April 2009



Andreas Rechkemmer  
Executive Director, International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), Germany



Frans Berkhout  
Professor of Innovation and Sustainability and Director, Institute for Environmental Studies/Instituut voor Milieuvraagstukken (IVM), Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam



Hans Joachim Schellnhuber  
Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany



Christopher Bunting  
Secretary General, IRGC, Switzerland



Hebe Vessuri  
Chair, United Nations University (UNU) Council, Venezuela



Michael Müller  
Parliamentary State Secretary, Bundesministerium fuer Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU), Germany



Oran Young  
Chair, Scientific Committee, International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, USA



Ortwin Renn  
University of Stuttgart and Director, DIALOGIK, Germany



Richard Tol  
Economic and Social Research Institute, Ireland



Martin Parry  
Professor and Co-Chair of Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, UK



Ernst von Weizsäcker  
Scientific Committee, International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), Germany



Wolfgang Schmitt  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, GTZ, Germany

29 April 2009



Walter Ammann  
Chairman, International Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (IDRC), Davos, Switzerland



Dessima William  
Representative, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Grenada

30 April 2009



Robin Mearns  
Social Development Department, World Bank, USA



Mark Fulton  
Managing Director, Head of Climate Change Investment Research, Deutsche Asset Management (DeAM), New York, USA



Roberto Guimarães  
Vice-Chair, Scientific Committee, IHDP, Brazil



Michael Zuern  
Dean, Hertie School of Governance, Germany



Jan Pronk  
Institute of Social Studies, Haag, the Netherlands



Laurence Tubiana  
Director, Institute of Sustainable Development and  
International Relations (IDDRI), Paris, France



Oran Young  
Chair, Scientific Committee, International Human Di-  
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(IHDP), School of Environmental Science & Manage-  
ment, University of California, USA