



Breaking Down Political Barriers to Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform

Date/Time: Thursday 21 June 2012, 15:00 – 16:30

Location: Rio Centro Convention Centre - Room T-5, Rio Centro

Globally, governments subsidize fossil fuels to the tune of over \$600 billion per year. These subsidies directly contribute to over-consumption of fossil fuels and higher emissions of local and global pollutants. They are also socially regressive, generally benefitting wealthier consumers more than the poor. Yet reforming fossil-fuel subsidies is challenging. If introduced too quickly, and without sufficient public support, it can have serious political repercussions. Moreover, there are often concerns about negative effects on the competitiveness of domestic energy-intensive industries.

This session, organised by the International Institute for Sustainable Development's Global Subsidies Initiative and the Government of Switzerland, aims to foster an open and constructive discussion among all stakeholders on the political barriers to fossil-fuel subsidy reform and how they can be overcome.

Panel:

- **Moderator: Mark Halle**, Director, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Speakers:

- **Keynote speaker: Hon. Martin Lindegaard**, Minister for Climate, Energy and Building, Denmark
- **Mr. Majid Al-Suwaidi**, Deputy Director of Energy and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates
- **Mr. Hans-Peter Egler**, Head of Trade Promotion, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland
- **Mr. Fabby Tumiwa**, Institute for Essential Services Reform, Indonesia
- **Ms. Kerry Lang**, Global Subsidies Initiative, IISD