

Rio+20 to 2015: A New Architecture for a Sustainable New World

A Conference at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

1-2 November 2013

The *Rio+20 to 2015* Conference will bring together **officials, academics, practitioners, and citizens** to examine the lessons learned from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) for two critical UN processes set to culminate in 2015: **a new climate agreement and a new set of sustainable development goals**. The Conference will help stimulate a response to the challenge set out by Hillary Clinton who, in her farewell speech as US Secretary of State, called for a “**new architecture for a new world**” to address climate change and other pressing global challenges.

While many were disappointed with the negotiated outcome document, “The Future We Want,” some of the most important outcomes of Rio+20 are often overlooked. **Hundreds of voluntary commitments from countries, corporations, cities, and civil society groups worth upwards of \$600 billion were made at Rio+20**. These commitments addressed the full range of sustainable development issues, including major promises on the sustainable energy, oceans, forests, and cities. The commitments were announced through various platforms, and most have been registered with the United Nations.

The *Rio+20 to 2015* Conference seeks to increase understanding of this **emerging multi-level architecture of commitments and partnerships where a diversity of stakeholders are taking results-based actions** that can cumulatively contribute to meeting internationally-agreed goals. The Conference will discuss how to strengthen various commitment platforms to enhance problem solving from international to local levels and nurture synergistic and mutually accountable outcomes.

The *Rio+20 to 2015* Conference will provide a timely opportunity to discuss **how to integrate commitments and partnerships into the architecture of the next climate change agreement and the new set of sustainable development goals**. It will also consider how green economy policies and financing can bring commitments to the needed scale. The cumulative impact of the Conference will be to further the development of a new architecture that can stimulate the transformative changes we need to realize a sustainable future.

The **expected outcomes** of the *Rio+20 to 2015* Conference include:

- Enhanced awareness and understanding of commitments and partnerships as elements of the multi-level architecture for sustainable development;
- Recommendations on how to integrate commitments and partnerships into the United Nations processes on climate change and sustainable development goals culminating in 2015;
- Policy briefs on the state of knowledge and lessons learned from Rio+20 commitments and other commitment platforms with insights on the path to enhance learning, durability, and accountability; and
- Establishment of a network of interested individuals and institutions to continue discussions on the design of a new multi-level architecture.

The Conference is co-organized by the **Natural Resources Defense Council** and the **Governance, Environment and Markets (GEM) Initiative at Yale University**.

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