



## Public Conference

# Rio+20 Challenges, Opportunities, Responses

Thursday, 10th May 2012 | 6.30pm

University of Geneva | Room U300 | Uni-Dufour

20 years after the 1992 Earth Summit, The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. This conference, known as Rio+20, will focus mainly on promoting a green economy and reforming the institutional framework for sustainable development. There are numerous challenges and the international community faces increasing difficulties to reach common agreements to take action, as illustrated by the effective implementation of the Kyoto protocol. Rio+20 is a unique opportunity to redefine a global framework for action, through institutional reforms, enabling a green economy and defining Sustainable Development Goals. Are these responses at the level of the challenges?

The speakers will exchange their perspectives on issues that are increasingly treated along the “North-South” divide and give insights about what the world can expect from the Rio+20 conference.

**Dr Daniel ZIEGERER | Head of Global Affairs at the Federal Environment Office of Switzerland**

Dr Ziegerer, coordinates the involvement and activities of the Swiss Government with UNEP and with the CSD and represents his government in international conferences and negotiations on environmental matters. Before joining the Swiss Office for the Environment, Daniel Ziegerer worked as Policy Adviser for the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA) in its Biodiversity and International Affairs Programme and for the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs in its Economic Development Cooperation Division.

**Dr Sarah COOK | United Nations Research Institute for Social Development**

Dr Sarah Cook is Director of UNRISD since 2009. She moved to UNRISD from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex, UK, where she had been a Research Fellow since 1996. She also worked for the Ford Foundation as Programme Officer for Governance and Public Policy from 2000 to 2005. Ms. Cook received her PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University.

