

Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

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MENU

Conference on the Global Pact for the Environment

by [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment](#) | September 20th, 2017

Categories: [Events](#), [Upcoming Events](#)

Tags: [Coordinating Multi-Stakeholder and Expert Dialogue](#)

Date: September 20, 2017, 9:00am – 6:30pm

Location: Faculty House, Columbia University, New York

The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration [here](#) is required.

CCSI and the [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) (SDSN), under the guidance of Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the SDGs, and Laurent Fabius, President of the Constitutional Council of the French Republic, will host a one-day conference to present and discuss the blueprint for a Global Pact for the Environment.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Since its adoption, state and non-state actors around the world have progressively contributed to the circulation and implementation of fundamental principles enshrined in the Declaration. In its November 2015 report *Increasing the Effectiveness of International Environmental Law: Duties of States, Rights of Individuals*, the Environmental Commission of Le Club des Juristes (CDJ) proposed the adoption of a Global Pact for the Environment to serve as a binding, universal “umbrella text” synthesizing the principles outlined in the Rio Declaration, the Earth Charter, the World Charter for Nature, and other instruments shaping environmental governance.

Coinciding with the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly, this Conference will offer a high-level opportunity to explore the complex legal and political challenges of the Global Pact in

light of existing agreements and soft law principles on the environment, and the current global political scene.

The conference's sessions will explore the scope and impact of the proposed Global Pact, including high-level panels on:

- the normative and legal case for the Global Pact on the Environment, the main legal challenges and opportunities presented by the Pact, and the ways in which the Pact can shape State and corporate responsibilities and behavior;
- the foundation for implementation and enforcement of the Global Pact established by existing jurisprudence on international environmental law, as well as the legal mechanisms proposed by the Pact and their application; and
- the role of diverse stakeholders in moving the environmental governance agenda forward, and emerging opportunities for collaboration and shared value creation among companies, governments, state institutions, and civil society.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Yann Aguila**, Chair of the Environmental Law Commission, Club des Juristes
- **Laurence Boisson de Chazournes**, Professor of Law, University of Geneva
- **Maxine Burkett**, Global Fellow, Environmental Change and Security Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- **Laurent Fabius**, President of the Conseil Constitutionnel de la République Française; Former President of COP21
- **Michael Gerrard**, Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia University
- **Honorable Justice Swatanter Kumar**, President of the National Green Tribunal, India
- **Naoko Ishii**, CEO and Chairperson, The Global Environment Facility
- **Peter Lehner**, Senior Attorney, Sustainable Food and Farming, Earth Justice
- **David W. Rivkin**, Partner, Debevoise and Plimpton LLP; Former President of the International Bar Association
- **Carlos Sallé**, Director of Energy Policies and Climate Change, Iberdrola

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Delivering a message to government and business leaders at the Paris launch of the Global Pact for the Environment on June 24, 2017, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs affirmed the critical importance of the Global Pact for the Environment to put the protection of the environment on a rigorous, sound, clear and universal legal basis. **View the video [here](#).**

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