

Invitation to the Joint Press Conference

Are the Sustainable Development Goals Sustainable?

20 April 2015

12.30 pm

**Scandic Hotel, Gabriele-Tergit-Promenade 19, 10963 Berlin
Stockholm Room**

Berlin, 15 April 2015. At the start of the third **Global Soil Week** in Berlin on 20 April, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), UNEP's International Resource Panel and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) will present new studies that investigate the effectiveness and sustainability of the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs). Both studies show that the huge demand for resources – such as land, water and biomass – implicit in the SDGs will affect their future availability and accessibility, and potentially impede the fulfilment of the goals. Twelve of the proposed SDGs relate to the sustainable use of natural resources and several depend on the use of additional land resources, for example, the goals on food security (Goal 2), energy supply (Goal 7), production and consumption (Goal 12) and the sustainable use of ecosystems (Goal 15).

The findings of the two studies and possible routes out of this dilemma will be presented by:

- **IASS Executive Director Klaus Töpfer**
- **Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker (UNEP International Resource Panel)**
- **Mette Wilkie (UNEP, Director Division of Environmental Policy Implementation) and**
- **Michael Obersteiner (IIASA, Programme Director Ecosystem Services and Management)**

on 20 April 2015 at 12.30 pm at a press conference at the Scandic Hotel, Stockholm Room.

The IASS study warns that when added up, the land demand implied in the SDGs exceed our existing land resources. The IIASA study – commissioned by IRP and the basis for a wider ranging assessment of the SDGs – suggests likewise that strategies to address single goals are unlikely to be successful: as natural resources are closely interlinked, policies to accomplish one goal may result in trade-offs across goals, and jeopardise progress towards other goals.

In the UN International Year of Soils, the Global Soil Week from 19 to 23 April will serve as an international forum and knowledge platform, bringing together more than 500 participants from 70 countries with different cultural and professional backgrounds, from high-level policymakers to scientists, farmers, civil society actors and artists. The motto of the event is "Soil. The Substance of Transformation." Information and the Global Soil Week Programme can be found at:

www.globalsoilweek.org

Press point of contact at the IASS

Corina Weber, corina.weber@iass-potsdam.de, Tel. 0331 – 28822 340

Press point of contact at UNEP International Resource Panel

Anthony Burnett, Anthony.Burnett.Affiliate@unep.org, Tel. +33 1 44 37 14 44

Press point of contact IIASA

Katherine Leitzell, leitzell@iiasa.ac.at, Tel. +43 2236 / 807 316

