

**A Climate for Change:
New Thinking on Governance for Sustainability**
Session 515, Salzburg, 23-27 June 2013

Concept paper

(5 March 2013)

Topic and outcomes

As the 21st century advances, the world faces worsening challenges to economic prosperity, human wellbeing, and environmental integrity - directly impacting life chances for upcoming generations. We recognize the problems but still struggle to secure fast, fair and inclusive progress towards a more sustainable future.

Existing governance arrangements - the way we make decisions, allocate resources and account for actions – are clearly not equipped to deliver the long-term decision-making and active public engagement needed to bring this transformation about.

Salzburg Global Seminar sees 2013 as a year of great opportunity. This session is timed to inject fresh systems thinking into the rapidly-evolving sustainability landscape. The event will connect participants and organizations across geographic and sectoral divides to:

- propose elements for a new framework to meet the global public goods challenge;
- identify practical ways to get traction and mobilize resources more effectively;
- build a network of critical thinkers and doers to drive change forward.

Specific outcomes will inform discussions at multiple levels, including but not limited to UN processes for the post-2015 development agenda.

Who should attend and why?

The session will bring together around 50 emerging and established decision-makers, innovators and practitioners from all continents. This non-standard group will straddle representatives of intergovernmental organizations, national governments, corporate public affairs/environment departments, SMEs and entrepreneurs, civil society, community initiatives, science, education and media. Every effort will be made to balance participation in terms of gender, age and region.

Salzburg's intimate setting creates a space for openness in which participants can tackle complexity and talk frankly on issues where debate is currently blocked. Horizon-scanning is enabled through a truly intergenerational and interdisciplinary exchange. The session will offer particular benefits to young and mid-career participants who need to understand how technological shifts are reconfiguring traditional relationships - and thus magnify their personal and professional effectiveness going forward.

Format and key questions

One-page issue summaries from a number of key entities and public/private sector stakeholders will be invited and circulated in advance to identify critical faultlines and options for future action. These

summaries will draw on stakeholders' practical experience from e.g. climate change and energy transition; food and water security; trade, investment and supply chains; and employment and social protection.

The session will start with leading figures setting out their key priorities for a new governance architecture for sustainability that delivers impact. They will come from very different perspectives and will challenge the group to get beyond standard responses. In-depth work will then include small group meetings and creative break-outs. Participants will identify roles and responsibilities for meaningful progress and propose concrete steps for target audiences at local to global levels. These could form the basis for a *Salzburg Strategy* – a new vision and means of practical implementation for global governance on sustainability – to be disseminated through Salzburg Global Fellowship and other networks.

Cross-cutting questions to focus the debate will include:

- How can we break down silos to build a coherent architecture for governance?
- Are we ready to rethink the growth paradigm to advance human wellbeing and protect natural capital for future generations?
- What should be the respective roles of state- and non-state actors to design and implement a well-functioning system of regulatory and incentive measures?
- How can we enable champions to build trust across different constituencies and provide leadership for collaborative action?

Impact

The discussions in Salzburg and the eventual *Salzburg Strategy* will contribute ideas to and help identify priority themes for the first meeting of the UN's High-level Political Forum in September 2013 in New York, the 3rd Global Green Growth Forum in October 2013 in Copenhagen, the report of the WEF's Global Agenda Council on Governance for Sustainability due in 2014, as well as ongoing work on a comprehensive climate change legal instrument under the UNFCCC, Sustainable Development Goals and measures of progress beyond GDP.

Salzburg Global Seminar: further information

Founded in 1947 as an independent non-profit institution, Salzburg Global Seminar's mission is to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern. Its alumni network numbers over 20,000 in 160 countries. Meetings take place in the secluded and inspiring setting of Schloss Leopoldskron, former home to Max Reinhardt, founder of the Salzburg Festival. The seminar is fully residential and participants have exceptional opportunities to interact and socialize.

We invite interested institutions to participate in the session's development and funding, either by sponsorship of seminar costs or by funding scholarships for specific participants. A detailed budget is available on request. The dedicated seminar webpage with regularly updated details of topic and speakers, as well as information on fee structure and registration procedures, may be found at: <http://www.salzburgglobal.org/go/515>.

Please contact Program Director Georgios Kostakos (gkostakos@salzburgglobal.org) for additional information.