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Applied Systems Analysis
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EUROPEAN
FORUM
ALPBACH

ALPBACH-LAXENBURG GROUP

Official Retreat
30 August – 1 September 2015
Alpbach, Tyrol, Austria

Logistics Information

Meeting venue:

30 August

Hotel Alpbacherhof
A-6236 Alpbach 279
Tel: +43 (0) 5336 52 37
www.alpbacherhof.at

Hotel Rossmoos
A-6323 Alpbach 92
Tel: +43 (0) 5336 5305
www.rossmoos.at

31 August

Congress Centre Alpbach, Lichtenstein-Hayek Saal
A-6236 Alpbach 246
Tel: +43 (0) 5336 600 500
www.alpbach.org

01 September

Congress Centre Alpbach, Erwin-Schrödinger Saal
A-6236 Alpbach 246
Tel: +43 (0) 5336 600 500
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Alpbach-Laxenburg Group

Now in its third year, the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group (ALG) is devoting its expertise to examining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, specifically, to meeting the challenges involved in making the transformation to sustainability a reality.

Recent thinking has taught us the importance of cooperating to achieve the SDGs, which are likely to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. We also know how many question marks there are in our current approaches to the SDGs, and the almost boundless efforts required to bring them to fruition.

No one sector of society can make our sustainable dreams come true—not science, government, business, industry, civil society, academia, or the arts. All sectors need to share their concerns and perspectives about these issues to ensure the best possible outcomes for the whole of humanity.

Bringing experts from all sectors together to elucidate the most intractable problems of today's world was the founding principle of the ALG, established in 2013 by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the European Forum Alpbach (EFA). ALG continues to pursue its goal of developing positive narratives on global transformation, backed by robust scientific data produced by IIASA researchers.

We welcome to the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group some of the world's best minds from every sector of human endeavor. We are sure that our discussions over these three days in the Austrian Alps will help not only illuminate the most appropriate pathways to a sustainable future but also demonstrate how best to tread them.

Pavel Kabat

Director General and CEO
IIASA

Franz Fischler

President
European Forum Alpbach

The Concept

In August 2013 IIASA and EFA jointly launched the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group (ALG), a reflection group with the capacity to draw together some of the world's finest intellects and put them to work on selected problems of global change. Both IIASA and EFA have broad and influential networks that span a large range of human activities from science across business and diplomacy to the fine arts. ALG is working to harness and synergize those talents to the benefit of humanity and the environment on which we depend.

ALG is all about perspectives, swapping them, finding commonalities and disagreements. "Great minds" do not always "think alike." As the ALG has already shown, probing the similarities and the differences between viewpoints can be a fertile ground for new discoveries. A scientist can learn from a dancer, a policymaker from a businessperson.

ALG 2015

The first ALG retreat with its focus on finding solutions to inequality in education, energy access, and financial systems, was an excellent preparation for tackling the upcoming ALG theme of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The transformation to sustainability covers much ground: energy transitions, climate change, atmospheric pollution, world population, food and water, poverty and equity, social justice, world financial and monetary structures, and strategies around the future of the key geopolitical hotspots.

ALG participants comprise men and women who, independent of national or financial interests, are willing to place their collective knowledge, expertise, experience, and reputation at the service of the world community at this critical period in Earth's development.

All the participants are aware, from their different standpoints, how difficult it will be to implement and achieve the SDGs. Adopting sustainable best practices, public acceptance, ensuring compliance with new regulations—we can see, even at this early stage, that the road ahead is fraught with difficulties. Competition for the same economic and financial space will likely go hand in hand with conflicting ideologies and incompatible approaches.

A partnership for the future

The reflections of this meeting of the ALG is to develop positive narratives on sustainable development. IIASA ensures that our work benefits by sound research, grounded in cutting-edge systems analysis. The EFA ensures that our ideas and conclusions are passed on to a wider international audience, including the general public.

Documentation produced as part of the deliberations will all be made available at www.iiasa.ac.at/ALG

Annotated Agenda of the Official Retreat of the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group

30 August – 1 September

Sunday, 30 August 2015

- 12:00–13:30 Welcome Lunch and Introductions
Venue: Alpbacherhof
- 13:30–14:30 **Briefing Session**
- Introduction of the purpose and agenda of the retreat
 - Introduction of the hosting teams
- 14:30–15:00 **Light Alpine Walk (~30 minutes) to the Rossmoos Chalet**
(weather permitting)
Venue: Rossmoos
- 15:00–15:15 Coffee and Tea Break
- 15:15–16:00 **Introductions by Participants**
- Sharing of 'buring questions'
 - Deepening of the understandings of the challenges
- 16:00–17:50 **Working Session on Finding Solutions**
- 17:50–18:05 Coffee and Tea Break
- 18:05–19:00 **Results and Feedback Session**
- 19:00 End of day 1
- 19:30–21:30 Dinner for Alpbach-Laxenburg Group Participants
Venue: Rossmoos

Monday, 31 August

09:00–09:15

Check-In

Venue: Lichtenstein-Hayek Saal; Congress Centre Alpbach

- Introduction, briefing, and updates

09:15–10:45

Breakout Working Groups: Part 1

Groups will be facilitated by the hosting team. Two of the proposed topics are:

1. Taking an honest look at the past experience, how can the SDGs really contribute to a sustainable transformation? What is missing to make transformation a reality? Are we perhaps, despite our good intentions, beating a dead horse and not giving enough space to possible inter-generational abrupt and disruptive developments which could in fact be solutions? Are our solutions perhaps a generation behind? How far can we get with established methods and should we expect smooth transformations or disruptive processes?
2. Research has shown the huge benefits of moving from silos to more integrated and systemic approaches in science, policy, and financing, among others. Yet this potential is hardly being used. For example, many of the 17 SDGs will be competing for the same economic and financial space and there is currently no articulated strategy on how to benefit from a joint implementation and financing of the SDGs and climate goals.

Additional Breakout Groups will be formed based on proposals from the previous day's discussions.

10:45–11:00

Coffee and Tea Break

11:00–12:15

Breakout Working Groups: Part 2

12:15–12:30

Plenum: Preliminary Reports

- Entire group reflects and updates each other on the process and preliminary findings

12:30–13:30

Lunch

Venue: Alpbacherhof

13:30–14:45

Breakout Working Groups: Part 3

14:45–15:00

Coffee and Tea Break

15:00–16:00

Plenum: "Harvesting"

- Each breakout group reports back on their discussion and conclusions

16:00–17:45

Open Space: Setting up of the Initiative and commitments

17:45–18:15

Final Summary and Check Out

- 18:15 End of day 2 and the ALG Retreat
- 19:30–21:30 Official Dinner Reception of the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group hosted by H.E. Andrä Rupprechter, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Venue: Alpbacherhof

Tuesday, 1 September 2015

- 07:20–08:30 Special Breakfast Briefing by Jeffrey Sachs and Pavel Kabat for those involved in the New York and Paris negotiations
Venue: Hotel Alpbacherhof

Closing Plenary of the Political Symposium of the European Forum Alpbach on Sustainable Development Goals: from Aspirations to Reality

Venue: Erwin Schrödinger-Saal; Congress Centre Alpbach

- 09:00–09:30 (In) Dignity: two dancers – one from Austria, the other from Syria – go on a quest of dignity
- 09:30–10:15 Plenary Discussion 1: Addressing External Risks
with invited members of the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group
- 10:15–10:45 Coffee and Tea Break
- 10:45–12:15 Plenary Discussion 2: Sustainable Development Goals: Presentation on the Conclusions of the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group
with invited members of the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group
- 12:15–12:30 Closing Remarks by Pavel Kabat and Franz Fischler

Participants

Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission for the Government of India and Distinguished Professor at the New York University Stern

Peter C. Aichelburg, Professor of Theoretical Physics, University of Vienna and Chairman of the Advisory Board, EFA, Austria

Petr Aven, Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Alfa Banking Group and IIASA Alumni, Russian Federation

Ligia Azevedo, Research Scholar, Ecosystems Services and Management Program, IIASA, Austria/Brazil

Gloria Benedikt, Artist and Dancer, Associate for Science and Arts, IIASA, Austria

Heribert Buchbauer, Head, Department of International Research Cooperation, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Austria

Guy Cecil, US Democratic Strategist; Former Executive Director, Democratic Senate Campaign Committee; Chief of Staff to Senator Michael Bennet & Political Director for Hillary Clinton, Washington, D.C., USA

Geoff Clarke, Senior Science Officer, IIASA, Austria/Australia

Stephan Contius, Division Head, United Nations, Post-2015 Agenda and Cooperation with Developing and Newly Industrialized Countries, Berlin, Germany

Claire Craig, Director of the Government Office for Science Policy Fellow and Associate Fellow, Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP), UK

Carole Dieschbourg, Minister for the Environment, Luxembourg

Ingolf Dietrich, Ministerial Counsellor, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Franz Fischler, President of EFA, Former Austrian Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Former European Union's Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Austria

Bernadette Fischler, Executive Adviser to the Chief Executive, WWF-UK, UK

Louise Fresco, Professor at the University of Amsterdam, Honorary Professor and President of the Executive Board at the Wageningen University and Research Center, Netherlands

Štefan Füle, Former Czech Minister for European Relations, Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy under the second Barroso Commission, Czech Republic

Michael Gerber, Special Representative for Global Sustainable Development, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

Irene Giner-Reichl, Austrian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, President of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy GFSE, Austria

Enrico Giovannini, Professor of Economic Statistics, Department of Economics and Finance (DEF) at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Former Italian Minister of Labor and Social Policies, Former Director of Statistics at OECD, Italy

John Hagel III, Author and Consultant, Co-Founder of the Deloitte Center for the Edge Innovation, Fellow at the World Economic Forum, USA

Tarja Halonen, Former President of the Republic of Finland, Angelopoulos Global Public Leaders Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), co-chair of the High Level Task Force for International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

Hermann Hauser, Co-Founder, Amadeus Capital Partners Ltd.; Member, ERA Council Forum Austria, Austria

Clemens Hellsberg, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (Former Chairman), Austria

Shigeru Ishiba, Member of the House of Representatives, Minister of State for the National Strategic Special Zones, Japan

Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Former Japanese Deputy Vice Minister of Finance

Nils Johnson, Research Scholar, Energy Program, IIASA, Austria/USA

Pavel Kabat, Director General and CEO of IIASA, Member of the Leadership Council for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Professor of Earth System Science at Wageningen University, Austria/Netherlands

Veikko Kiljunen, Special Advisor to Former President Tarja Halonen, Finland

Csaba Kőrösi, Director, Directorate for Environmental Sustainability, Office of the President, Hungary

Markus Langes-Swarovski, CEO Swarovski Group, Austria

Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Under-Secretary General for Public Information at the UN, UN Coordinator for Multilingualism, Austria

Chin-Min Lee, Special Advisor to the Director General/CEO, IIASA, Austria, Visiting Professor of Korea University and Konkuk University, Republic of Korea

Yuan T. Lee, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Former President of the International Council for Science (ICSU), Professor Emeritus at the University of California, China Taiwan

Wolfgang Lutz, World Population Program Director, IIASA, Founding Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, Professor of Applied Statistics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

Janos Martonyi, Former Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hungary

Gordon McBean, President of the International Council for Science (ICSU), Professor at the University of Western Ontario and Chair for Policy in the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, Canada

Amina J. Mohammed, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General of Post-2015 Development Planning, Former Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria, Nigeria

Jan Marco Müller, International Relations Policy Officer to the European Commission – Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Director General/Deputy CEO of IIASA, Emeritus Professor of Energy Economics at the Vienna University of Technology, Member of the UN Secretary General High-Level Technical Group on Sustainable Energy for All, Member of the International Council of Science (ICSU), Austria

Philippe Narval, Managing Director, EFA, Austria

Michael Obersteiner, Ecosystems Services and Management Program Director, IIASA, Austria

Koji Omi, Founder and Chairman of the Science and Technology in Society Forum (STS forum), Former Japanese Finance Minister, Japan

Eric Poettschacher, Co-Founder, Energies United GbR, Germany

Janez Potocnik, Former Slovenia's Minister for European Affairs, Former Commissioner for Environment of the European Commission Cabinet Barroso, Slovenia

Shalini Randeria, Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna, Research Director and Professor of Social Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva, Austria/Switzerland/India

Christina Rappich, Co-Founder, Energies United GbR, Germany

Lord Martin Rees, Past President of the Royal Society (2005 to 2010) Astronomer Royal, Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge, Member of CSaP's Executive Committee, UK

David Rejeski, Director of the Science and Technology Innovation Program and Interim Director of Commons Lab, Wilson Center, USA

Andrä Rupprechter, Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Director of the Earth Institute, Member of the Leadership Council for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Professor at Columbia University, USA

Konrad Max Scharinger, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Germany to the International Organizations in Vienna

Hans Joachim "John" Schellnhuber, founding Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Chair of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) Professor at the Santa Fe Institute, USA and Professor at the University of Potsdam, Germany

Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Former Policy Advisor and Associate Director of the UN Millennium Project in New York, USA/France/Germany

Khaled Shamaa, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN Office at Vienna and Chair of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Takayuki Shirao, Director General of the Science and Technology in Society Forum (STS Forum), Japan

Sam Loni Siamak, Member of the Leadership Council for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Global Coordinator of SDSN Youth, and regional team member of the SDSN Australia/Pacific Regional Centre, Australia

Björn Stigson, former President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Sweden

David Stuart, Ambassador of Australia to Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Kosovo, Slovakia, Slovenia and to the UN Vienna

Vladimir Šucha, Director-General of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, Professor at the Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia

Laurence Tubiana, Special Representative for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, Co-Chair of the UN Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Professor at the University of Columbia, New York, Professor and Director of the Sustainable Development Centre at Sciences Po Paris, France

Merlijn Twaalfhoven, Composer and Theater Maker, Winner of the UNESCO Award 2011, Netherlands

Farooq Ullah, Director of the Stakeholder Forum, London, UK

Vladimir Voronkov, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Vienna

Brian Walsh, Research Scholar, Ecosystems Services and Management Program, IIASA, Austria/USA

Hubert Wurth, Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, to the Slovak Republic, to the Republic of Slovenia, Permanent Representative to the OSCE and to the International organizations in Vienna, Austria

Hosting team: Nonno Breuss, Consultant, Partner at Schäfer&Breuss GbR, Vienna/Bremen, Holger Heller, Independent Consultant, Vienna, Ursula Hillbrand, Trainer & Coach, European Commission, Brussels, Toke Möller, InterCange, Denmark, Rita Trattnigg, Institute for Cultural Change, Vienna

Supported by IIASA and EFA staff: Philippa Brooks, Communications Manager, IIASA, Annamaria Toth, Project Manager, EFA, Sanja Drinkovic, Administrative Officer for IIASA Council and External Relations, IIASA, and Victoria Empey, Personal Assistant to the IIASA Director General and CEO, IIASA

The IIASA and EFA Partnership

Since its establishment in 1972 IIASA has been a natural convener of international science to policy dialog and collaboration, due to its research emphasis on integrated systems analysis to address human and environmental concerns. It is therefore well placed to host a new generation of think tank that is not only dedicated to finding the most effective means to manage global transition to sustainable development, but also capable of effectively communicating these to policymakers and to the public at large. This quality has been enhanced by IIASA's recently established close collaboration with the European Forum Alpbach.

IIASA has several major advantages. It is governed by its 23 National Member Organizations (NMOs) from developing and developed countries alike. As well as providing support to the Institute, NMOs bring IIASA senior scientists into daily contact with high-level scientists and policymakers from many countries and organizations.

In the course of its scientific research, IIASA has established a network of over 350 partners from the international community, academia, business, and policy. This network is growing across the world as IIASA attracts new scholars and young scientists to use expert systems analysis to view persistent human and environmental problems from different and fresh perspectives.

Every year since 1945, the "European Forum Alpbach" has been held in the Tyrolean mountain village of Alpbach. For almost three weeks Alpbach becomes the village of thinkers or, as Otto Molden, the founder of the Forum, called it, the "other magic mountain." Speakers and participants from all parts of the world, from science, economics and politics, experienced experts and students, come together in Alpbach to discuss current issues and to formulate interdisciplinary solutions. The open character of the events promotes a climate of tolerance for different opinions and contributes to the overcoming of national, ideological and disciplinary boundaries in a harmonious way. Every year, more than 4,000 people from over 86 countries take up the invitation to participate in the European Forum Alpbach, among them some 700 young scholarship holders from all over Europe and beyond.

IIASA's systems approaches and its scientific excellence, combined with the Forum's unique and historically proven power to convene meetings with leading political, economic, and industrial players, thus provides an extraordinary platform for interdisciplinary dialog.

The European Forum Alpbach and IIASA are both uniquely poised at the nexus of international and interdisciplinary research to seek solutions to major global challenges—such as energy, climate, food and water, poverty and equity, and their related issues on the economic and political governance. The hosting of a new think tank to support solutions of persistent world problems is entirely in line with the internal aims and policy of both organizations.