



International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis  
[www.iiasa.ac.at](http://www.iiasa.ac.at)



**EUROPEAN  
FORUM  
ALPBACH**

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# **ALPBACH-LAXENBURG GROUP**

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**RETREAT AND FIRST PUBLIC MEETING  
24-26 AUGUST 2014  
ALPBACH, TYROL, AUSTRIA**

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## Logistics Information

### Meeting venue:

24 August

*Hotel Alpbacherhof*

Family Margreiter

A-6236 Alpbach 279

Tel: +43 (0) 5336 52 37

[www.alpbacherhof.at](http://www.alpbacherhof.at)

25 August

*Böglalm*

A-6236 Alpbach 589

[www.alpbach-alm.at](http://www.alpbach-alm.at)

26 August

*Congress Centre Alpbach, Erwin-Schödinger-Saal*

A-6236 Alpbach 246

Tel: +43 (0) 5336 600 500

[www.alpbach.org](http://www.alpbach.org)

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## Alpbach-Laxenburg Group

In August 2013 the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the European Forum Alpbach (EFA) jointly launched a new generation of global think tank—the Alpbach–Laxenburg Group. This initiative was presented to the UN Secretary-General and discussed at a special meeting during the European Forum Alpbach 2013 with the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, Austrian Federal President, Heinz Fischer, and senior United Nations officials.

Traditionally, different sectors of society have been dedicated to solving their own challenges, bringing in expert help if time and budgets allowed. Yet until now, no-one has assembled, ab initio, an interdisciplinary team with different emphases and perspectives, able to view complex problems, such as inequality, from unusual, unconventional, or unexpected angles.

The Alpbach–Laxenburg Group seeks to break this deadlock. It argues that the challenges of an ever more complex society can only be disentangled through the concerted focus of excellent minds, enriched by diversity, and underpinned by cutting-edge scientific information of the highest relevance and quality.

The goal of the Alpbach–Laxenburg Group is to develop positive narratives on chosen topics of global transformation and—through the advocacy of Group members and by dissemination of our own communications and publications—to bring our ideas and conclusions to a wider international audience, including the public, national and international leaders, and policymakers.

Pavel Kabat  
Director General and CEO  
IIASA

Franz Fischler  
President  
European Forum Alpbach

## The Concept

Urgent and concerted steps are required to help human beings, societies and their economies, and the environment on which we depend, shift to a sustainable development path.

For successful completion of this transformation, today's business-as-usual scenario is no longer an option. Moreover, transformative action is needed simultaneously at the global, regional, and national levels and in every sector, including food, water, energy, climate, biodiversity, human health, education, economic development, equity, and social inclusion.

Although the extraordinary scientific and technological knowledge acquired in the course of industrialization can assist in tackling these challenges, it cannot alone return Earth's deeply interconnected physical, biological, and socioeconomic systems to their former beneficial rhythms and equilibrium. Momentum for transformation is required in the form of new dialogs and partnerships between leading scientists, governments, business, and civil societies, and in the form of policies that are informed, powerful, implementable, and communicable—policies that would be based on focused and collaborative scientific research with clear and productive aims and outcomes.

### A new generation of thinking

To drive this momentum, in August 2013 IIASA and EFA jointly launched a new generation of global think tank – the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group, that includes some of the best minds in the world today: people who, independent of national and 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.

The composition of the think tank reflects the need for new dialog and partnerships between leaders of global academia, governments, business, and civil society. The group members will become—both individually and collectively—ambassadors for this partnership and for a new paradigm for sustainable transitions grounded in positive environmental and development narratives.

The group will set an international agenda for the most urgent issues in the upcoming global transformation, and take on an ambassadorial role in communicating these to policymakers and the public. It will meet twice a year, at IIASA in Laxenburg and at the European Forum Alpbach in Alpbach, in an informal, yet productive “fireside” setting.

### Topics for deliberations

The basic goal underlying activities and deliberations of the think tank will be to support global transformations toward sustainability by creating and communicating positive narratives for sustainable development and business opportunities, grounded in cutting-edge international systems science.

The transformation to sustainability covers much ground, including 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.

One of the first topics to be tackled by the group will be inequality: a burning issue across all societies and a major issue for sustainable development. The impacts of inequality affect all areas of the ongoing global transformation. The Alpbach-Laxenburg Group will focus, in its first year specifically, on inequality in education, energy access, and financial systems, and in so doing will address critical issues and forge a new path for a sustainable future.

### Mapping the future

The reflections of the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group aim to develop positive narratives on sustainable development and global transformation. IIASA, makes sure that our work is accompanied by and followed up through sound scientific research and grounded in cutting edge system-science. The European Forum Alpbach brings our ideas and conclusions to a wider international audience. Together, we can begin to draw a map of the emerging key challenges and outline different ways of how to tackle them.

Documentation produced as part of the deliberations will all be made available at [www.iiasa.ac.at/ALG](http://www.iiasa.ac.at/ALG)

*“IIASA’s systems approaches, its scientific excellence, and the Alpbach Forum’s unique and historically proven power to convene meetings with leading political, economic, and industrial players provide an extraordinary platform for interdisciplinary dialog.”*

President of the European Forum Alpbach, Dr. Franz Fischler

## Alpbach-Laxenburg Group Meeting Agenda, 24-25 August

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### August 24

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12:00–13:30	Welcome and lunch	Alpbacherhof
13:30–15:00	First working session	Alpbacherhof
15:00–18:30	Second working session	Alpbacherhof
19:30	Departure to dinner	
20:00–21:30	Dinner hosted by H.E. Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs	Rossmoos

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### August 25

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09:30–13:00	Walk to Böglalm (1h)	Alpbacherhof → Böglalm
13:00–14:00	Buffet lunch	Böglalm
14:00–16:00	Third working session	Böglalm
16:00–16:30	Fourth working session	Böglalm
16:30	Walk back to Alpbacherhof (1h)	Böglalm → Alpbacherhof
19:00	Departure to dinner (by bus)	Alpbacherhof
19:30–21:30	Dinner pensant	Restaurant Tiroler Weinstuben, Schloss Matzen

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*“Urgent and concerted steps are required to help human beings, societies and their economies, and the environment itself on which we depend, to transform to a sustainable development path. Today’s business-as-usual scenario is no longer an option.”*

IIASA Director General and CEO Professor Dr. Pavel Kabat

## Plenary Program on Inequality, 26 August

09:00–12:30

Congress Centre Alpbach, Erwin-Schödinger-Saal

### Inequality and Sustainable Global Governance: What Development Goals do We Need?

Members of the newly launched Alpbach-Laxenburg Group will debate one of the most pressing issues of world sustainable development and global transitions: inequality and equity, in areas such as education, climate and energy. What development goals do we need after 2015 and which global governance system is necessary to achieve them?

09:00–09:10

Congress Centre Alpbach, Erwin-Schödinger-Saal

### Introductory Remarks

Franz Fischler

President, European Forum Alpbach, Vienna

Pavel Kabat

Director General and CEO, IIASA – International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg

09:10–10:30

Congress Centre Alpbach, Erwin-Schödinger-Saal

### Session 1: Generational Inequality

Robbert Dijkgraaf

Director and Leon Levy Professor, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

Tarja Halonen

Former President of the Republic of Finland, Helsinki

Chen Jining

President, Tsinghua University, Beijing

Wolfgang Lutz

Founding Director, Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (IIASA, VID/ÖAW, WU), Vienna; Director, World Population Program, IIASA – International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg

Mary Robinson

President, MRFCJ – The Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice; Former President of the Republic of Ireland, Dublin

Chair: Corinna Milborn

Information Director, ProSieben Sat.1 PULS 4, Vienna

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10:30–11:00

Coffee break

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11:00–12:15

*Congress Centre Alpbach, Erwin-Schödinger-Saal*

## Session 2: Inequality in Energy and Climate

Montek Singh Ahluwalia      Former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission for the Government of India

Pascal Lamy      Former Director General, WTO – World Trade Organization; Honorary President, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, Paris

Nebojsa Nakicenovic      Deputy Director General and Deputy CEO, IIASA – International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; Professor, Energy Economics Group, Institute of Power Systems and Energy Economics, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna

Jeffrey D. Sachs      Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York  
Chair: Corinna Milborn      Information Director, ProSieben Sat.1 PULS 4, Vienna

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12:15–12:30

*Congress Centre Alpbach, Erwin-Schödinger-Saal*

## Closing Remarks

Franz Fischler      President, European Forum Alpbach, Vienna

Pavel Kabat      Director General and CEO, IIASA – International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg

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## Participants

**H.E. Montek Singh Ahluwalia**, Former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission for the Government of India

**Fahad Bin Mohammed Al-Attiya**, Executive Chairman of the [Qatar National Food Security Programme](#) and former Advisor to His Highness the Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar

**Jining Chen**, President of [Tsinghua University](#), China

**Ian Chubb**, [Chief Scientist](#) of Australia and Professor of Biology

**Robbert Dijkgraaf**, Director and Leon Levy Professor of the [Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton](#), USA

**Franz Fischler**, President of the [European Forum Alpbach](#), former European Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries and former Austrian Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

**H.E. Tarja Halonen**, Former [President](#) of Finland

**Clemens Hellsberg**, President of the [Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra](#), Austria

**Pavel Kabat**, [Director General and CEO of IIASA](#), member of the Leadership Council for the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Professor of Earth System Science at Wageningen University

**Pascal Lamy**, Former Director General of the [World Trade Organisation](#), former European Commissioner for Trade and Honorary President of the Notre Europe –Jacques Delors Institute, France

**H.E. János Martonyi**, Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary

**Rajendra K. Pachauri**, Chairman of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC), head of [The Energy and Resources Institute](#) and Director General of the Energy and Resources Institute, India

**H.E. Mary Robinson**, Former President of Ireland and Chair of the Institute for Human Rights and Business, United Kingdom

**Jeffrey Sachs**, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University, Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon

**Simon Anholt**, [Independent Policy Advisor](#) and Member of the United Kingdom Foreign Office Public Diplomacy Board

**Peter Balas**, Head of the EU Group for Ukraine and former Deputy Director General of DG Trade for the [European Commission](#)

**Chin-Min Lee**, [Special Advisor](#) to the IIASA Director General and Chief Executive Officer

**Wolfgang Lutz**, [IIASA Director, World Population Program](#), Founder and Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital and Professor of Applied Statistics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration

**Nebojsa Nakicenovic**, [Deputy Director General and Deputy CEO of IIASA](#), Professor of Energy Economics at the Vienna University of Technology and Director of Global Energy Assessment (GEA)

**Philippe Narval**, Managing Director of the [European Forum Alpbach](#) (EFA)

**Kalypto Nicolaidis**, Professor of International Relations and Director of the European Studies Center at [Oxford University](#)

**Sonja Puntischer Riekmann**, Vice President, European Forum Alpbach (EFA); Head and Professor, Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies, Paris Lodron [University Salzburg](#)

**Björn Stigson**, Former President of the [World Business Council for Sustainable Development](#) and Special Advisor to the IIASA Director General and Chief Executive Officer

**Vladimir Šucha**, Director General of the [Joint Research Center](#) (JRC) of the European Commission and Professor at Comenius University Bratislava

**Elisabeth Wehling**, Researcher, International Computer Science Institute, [University of California at Berkeley](#)

Alpbach-Laxenburg  
Group members not able  
to attend

**Jan Zielonka**, Professor of European Politics, [University of Oxford](#); Ralf Dahrendorf Professorial Fellow, St Antony's College, Oxford

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**Petr Aven**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board at the [Alfa Bank](#) and former Foreign Economic Relations Minister of the Russian Federation

**Peter Bakker**, President and CEO of the [World Business Council](#) for Sustainable Development, Switzerland

**Ralph J. Cicerone**, President of the [National Academy of Sciences](#), USA

**Vuk Jeremic**, Former President of the United Nations General Assembly and President of the [Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development](#), Serbia

**Mario Molina**, Nobel Laureate for Chemistry, President of Centro Mario Molina, Mexico, member of the U.S. President's Committee of Advisors in Science and Technology and holder of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom

**Michael Sandel**, Political Philosopher and Professor of Harvard University, USA

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Supported by IIASA and EFA staff: Geoff Clarke, Senior Science Officer, IIASA, 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 22 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 60 countries take up the invitation to participate in the European Forum Alpbach, among them some 600 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.