

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Gorbachev to Lead a Synergy Task Force on Climate

Geneva, 6 October, 2009 -- Mikhail Gorbachev, the Founding President of Green Cross International, will lead a cross-sectoral panel of international public figures and representatives of expert community to strengthen the global response to climate change.

The inaugural meeting of the panel was held in Geneva last night in the presence of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Among the Task Force members are Ricardo Lagos (President of the Club of Madrid and UN Special Envoy on Climate Change), Sir David King (former UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser), Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, (Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), Shyam Saran (Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India on climate change issues) and others.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) are among the organisations providing support to this initiative.

The Task Force has three clear goals.

- (1) To urge governments to maximise the opportunities Copenhagen offers for a strong and coherent climate deal.
- (2) To "recalibrate" the international response to climate change in line with the danger posed to human security and development; and
- (3) To engage civil society in the search for appropriate and adequate solutions to the challenges of climate change, building the critical mass for a deep-rooted societal change necessary to contain and then to reverse the effects of climate change.

Mr. Gorbachev is in Geneva for the annual Board meeting of the Green Cross International. He also delivered the third Geneva Lecture on "Resetting the Nuclear Disarmament Agenda" yesterday at the United Nations.

For more information, please contact media@gci.ch or 022 789 1662.