



Green Cross Returns to Rio: Building the safe and sustainable societies of the future

Date/time: 16 June, 9am to 5.30pm (followed by reception 5.30pm to 7pm)
Location: Getulio Vargas Foundation Auditorium, Praia de Botafogo, 190 12th Floor, auditorium ([map](#)).

20 years after the 1992 Earth Summit, the world's focus returns to Rio in the search for solutions to the challenges facing our planet and its people.

Green Cross International (GCI), which was **born out** of the Earth Summit 20 years ago, is joined by partners and experts from relevant fields for a daylong examination of the threats and opportunities facing the world today.

How do we overcome the global water crisis? How do we achieve energy & resource efficiency? Deploy safe & renewable energy? Achieve environmental security and sustainability? Provide social & medical care to those suffering from environmental degradation? How do we enable the change in values necessary to build just, sustainable and peaceful societies?

These questions will be addressed by relevant experts, civil society leaders and government representatives. Statements from the audience and questions and answer sessions will be part of this interactive event.

Agenda Morning sessions:

- 9am: Registration
- 9.30am: *Welcoming remarks:* [Antonio Freitas](#), Director, Getulio Vargas Foundation.
- 9.45am: *Opening and introductory remarks:* [Alexander Likhotal](#), President of Green Cross International, and [Celso Luiz Claro de Oliveira](#), President of Green Cross Brazil.
- 10am: *Give Humanity a Chance, Give the Earth Future:* Video message by [President Mikhail Gorbachev](#), Founding President, Green Cross International.
- 10.10am: *From Victims to Leaders:* Accounts from Green Cross youth representatives from Ghana, Brazil, United States of America, Haiti and Ukraine, around the world suffering from environmental contamination and working for The Right to Live in a Clean & Safe Environment. Introduction by [Maria Vitagliano](#), Director, [Social and Medical programme](#), Green Cross.

- 11am: *Sustainable water resources management: food security, poverty and climate change nexus:* [Mohan Munasinghe](#), Chairman, [Munasinghe Institute of Development](#), former Vice-Chairman, [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#).
- 11.30am: *The Global Water Crisis - Implications for Access to Water & Sanitation and Cooperation over Shared Water Resources:*
- [Jean-François Donzier](#), Permanent Technical Secretary, [International Network of Basin Organizations](#).
 - [Marie-Laure Vercambre](#), Director, [Water for Life and Peace Programme](#), GCI.
 - [Nathalie Seguin](#), Executive Director, [Freshwater Action Network](#), Mexico.
- 12.15pm-2pm: *Lunch break (not provided)*

12.15pm-1.15pm: Media opportunity (interviews)

Afternoon sessions:

- 2pm: *An Ethical Framework for Sustainable Development:*
- [Mirian Vilela](#), Executive Director, Earth Charter Initiative.
 - [Kartikya V. Sarabhai](#), Council Member, Earth Charter.
 - [Michael Slaby](#), Feather Project Manager/Earth Charter Programme Coordinator, [Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values](#)
 - [Xavier Guijarro](#), Director, [Value Change Programme](#), GCI.
- 2.45pm: *Disarmament and Development: Up-scaling arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation globally to help efforts to meet the MDGs by 2015:* [Paul Walker](#), Director, [Environmental Security and Sustainability](#) programme, GCI.
- 3.15pm: *Climate Change, the Future We Want and the Need for Action:* [Bill Becker](#), energy, climate and sustainable development expert, [Climate Change Task Force](#) member, architect of the [Future We Want](#) campaign.
- 3.45pm: *Environmental Emergencies:*
- Ambassador [Toni Frisch](#), Senior advisor to the Swiss government on Rio+20 and former Chief of the [Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit](#).
 - [Arab Hoballah](#), Chief, [Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch](#) of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics.

- [Jeff Stys](#), President, [Strategic Decision Associates](#).
- [Vladimir Sakharov](#), Director, Environmental Emergency Preparedness, Green Cross International.
- Walter Amman (moderator), President, [Global Risk Forum Davos](#).

4.45pm: *Closing remarks: A message for youth and building a sustainable future:* [Severn Cullis-Suzuki](#), environmental advocate

5.15pm: *Wrap-up and thanks:* Adam Koniuszewski, Chief Operating Officer, Green Cross International

5.30pm-7pm: *Reception*

Important details:

- Registration from 9am and the event starts at 9.30am.
- Speakers and attendees need to bring **passport ID** for entry to the Getulio Vargas Foundation building.
- The event is open to the public and media.
- People can attend the whole day or only sessions of interest to them.
- Green Cross documentation will be available electronically at the event, and selected items will be available in printed form. Bring a USB key.
- The event will be followed by a reception. No lunch is provided.

Further information, contact:

- Overall agenda: Adam Koniuszewski, adam.koniuszewski@gci.ch
- Media: Paul Garwood, paul.garwood@gci.ch
- Logistics: Marianne Berner, marianne.berner@gci.ch

Partners

