

# NGO SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD

## CELEBRATING MOTHER EARTH DAY



### EVENT DETAILS

**22 April 2016**

14:00 - 16:30

**ROOM XXII • Palais des Nations • Geneva**

### PANELLISTS (presentations in English)

**H.E. Mme NARDI SUXO ITURRY** - Ambassador, Permanent Representative for the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva "Introducing Mother Earth Day"

**ROBERT HALL** - Global Ecovillage Network Europe and European Network of Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability  
"A Worldwide Ecovillage Network" and "Community-led Initiatives"

**SONJA OHLSSON** - International coordinator Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative  
"Mobilizing a spiritual community for greater Earth Care"

**FRANCO ZUNINO** - Founder / SG of the Associazione Italiana Wilderness  
"Why Wilderness Areas Matter"

**BOYAN SLAT** - CEO/Founder of The Ocean Cleanup, UN Champion of the Earth (2014)  
"Preparing for the 2020 Pacific Cleanup" > audio-visual presentation.

**MODERATING** - Valeriane BERNARD and Vita DE WAAL

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THE OCEAN CLEANUP



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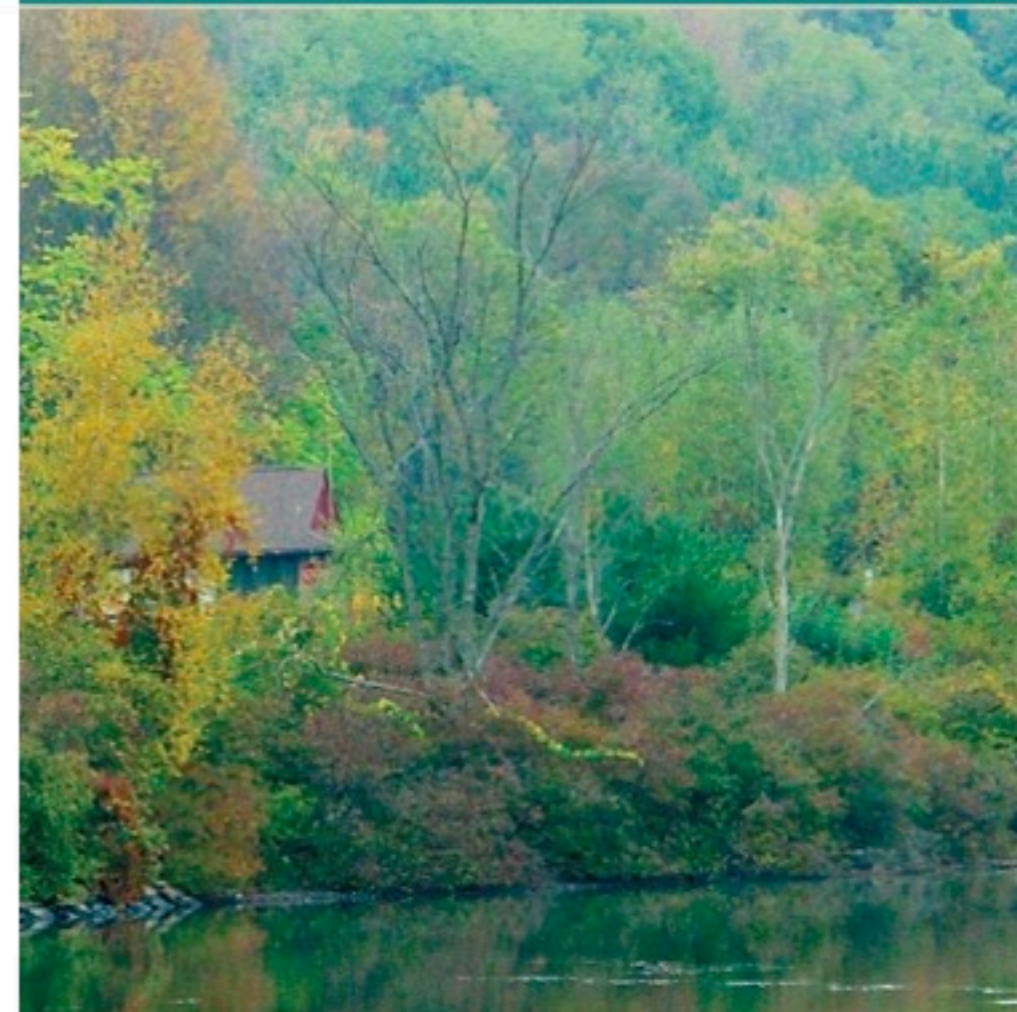
**H.E. Mme NARDI SUXO ITURRY** - Ambassador, Permanent Representative for the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.

**ROBERT HALL** is currently President of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) Europe. He received his Bachelors in International Relations from the University of California, Davis; a Bachelors in Economics from the Lund University, Sweden and an International Masters in Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Infrastructure from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm. Interested in global development issues, Robert has worked for the EU, OSCE, UN and the Swedish government. Visiting Svanholm Ecovillage in Denmark Robert became fascinated with the ecovillage concept which led to his involvement in the revival of the Swedish national network ERO and then the creation of the regional Baltic Ecovillage Network. Since 2013 Robert has been assisting with the launch of the ECOLISE Europe network of local initiatives on behalf of GEN Europe. He continues to be fascinated by ecovillages and the wisdom that they collectively create and the potential they offer for the wider society's transition to resilience.

**SONJA OHLSSON** is the International Coordinator for the Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative and was instrumental in developing the Brahma Kumaris Environmental initiative in order to meet the need for a higher environmental awareness within the international BK community, and also to add the inner dimension to discussions at the UN Climate Change conferences. The BK Environment initiative delegation has been actively participating in the UN conferences on Climate Change since 2009 and is working together with other international NGOs on individual responsibility when addressing global issues. Sonja Ohlsson continues to conduct green retreats for the BK communities worldwide. Sonja is a meditation teacher with the Prison and Probation Service in Copenhagen and occasionally gives lectures at The Asian Studies Department at Copenhagen University.

**BOYAN SLAT** has been nominated 2014 UN Champion of the Earth. At 19 he founded and is CEO of The Ocean Cleanup where he is responsible for overall strategy and cleanup technology development. In August 2015, around 30 vessels crossed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in parallel, becoming the largest ocean research expedition ever. The expedition covered 3.5 million square kilometers and collected more data on oceanic plastic than has been collected in the past 40 years combined. In 2015, HM King Harald of Norway awarded Boyan the maritime industry's Young Entrepreneur Award, and Foreign Policy magazine included Boyan in their 2015 list of Global Thinkers. *Please note: audio-visual presentation*

**FRANCO ZUNINO**, also called the Italian John Muir. Steven J. Holmes, Muir's biographer, described Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, as "one of the patron saints of twentieth-century American environmental activity." Franco has against numerous odds, with fierce determination and single-handedly created 67 wilderness areas spanning 10 regions in 20 Italian provinces totalling 51'000 hectares to which a further 18'000 hectares as areas of special natural interest are to be added. Franco founded the Associazione Italiana Wilderness (AIW) one of the first wilderness associations in Europe.



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ECOLISE