

EDITORIAL

We were very happy to receive so many compliments on our last Editorial. With a view to maintaining momentum after Rio+20, this issue follows our practice of providing coverage of specific meetings from various viewpoints.

The United Nations General Assembly formally adopted as its Resolution 288 the Rio+20 outcome, The Future We Want on 27 July. A number of notes verbal and letters concerning reservations and interpretations (see page 218) have been addressed to the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon.

Although there are differing opinions on the merits of the outcome document, work has commenced on a great number of related and important initiatives. In particular the Secretary-General has appointed a High-level Panel to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015. The Panel's work will coordinate closely with the existing intergovernmental working group tasked to design Sustainable Development Goals. Both groups will submit their reports to Member States in 2013 for further deliberations.

As the 67th session of the General Assembly gets underway, we look forward to reporting on discussions of its 2nd Committee in the next issue. Considering there is no direct reference to Rio+20 on the agenda, we hope that important issues, such as the future of UNEP and the Commission on Sustainable Development do not have to wait till next year.

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This issue is being completed shortly before the 5th World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Happily, the WCC is planned differently from other recent summits. It connects meetings of the Members, Commissions, Council, and the wider public.

With more than 200 motions for resolution, the future work and structure of IUCN will be considered over nine days. Everyone attending will be very busy!

As is the case with organisations that convene every four years, some controversial and highly political issues are to be dealt with. We will report on the outcomes in the next issue.

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Following the decision of the German Federal Government in 2011 to phase out the use of nuclear power plants by 2022, the "Energiewende" has come to consume a great deal of the Minister for Environment's time. Peter Altmaier, like many of his counterparts, is charged with ushering in a new age of renewable energy and energy efficiency. This is a very urgent issue and could be the precedent for sustainable economic growth around the world.

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Wolfgang B. S. -