



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
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UNA-USA Nationwide Conference Call

The Future We Want

The UN's Role in Sustainable Development

with

Lawrence J. Gumbiner

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment and Science,
U.S. Department of State

and

Melinda Kimble

Vice President, International Bioenergy Initiative, UN Foundation

Thursday, February 16, 6:00 p.m. ET

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With the [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development \(Rio+20 Summit\)](#) just a few months away, there's never been a better time to learn about the UN's role in sustainable development. Join UNA-USA's February Nationwide Conference Call, *The Future We Want: The UN's Role in Sustainable Development*, to discuss sustainability, UN mechanisms handling sustainability, the outcomes of recent conferences, the challenges and opportunities of future conferences, and the U.S. role in discussions.

About our speakers:

Lawrence J. Gumbiner has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) since January 2010. In his present role, he is in charge of coordinating the Department of State's preparation for the [2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development \(Rio+20\)](#), as well as Green Growth and Green

Economy elements in numerous multilateral fora. Gumbiner has also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science, Space & Health, managing a team of more than 50 foreign affairs professionals and programs in the areas of Science & Technology Cooperation, Space & Advanced Technologies, and International Health and Biosafety.

Gumbiner is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Prior to becoming Deputy Assistant Secretary he served as Director of Environmental Policy for the OES Bureau. From 2006 to 2009 he was Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, serving as chief advisor to the Ambassador on economic and environmental, science and technology matters. From 2004-2006 he was Deputy Director for Regional Economic Affairs in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

He joined the U.S. Department of State in 1988. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Davis, and a JD from Hastings College of the Law.

Melinda Kimble is a senior vice president, and oversees the UN Foundation's International Bioenergy Initiative. She joined the organization in May 2000.

Prior to the Foundation, Kimble served as a Department of State Foreign Service Officer, attaining the rank of minister-counselor. She served in policy-level positions in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, overseeing multilateral development issues and debt policy, as well as in the Bureau of Oceans, International Environment and Scientific Affairs (OES), leading environmental negotiations (e.g, Climate Change Conference, Kyoto, Japan, 1997). Her assignments abroad included Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt and Tunisia.

She speaks French and Arabic and holds two master's degrees, one in economics from the University of Denver and an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

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