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Institute for Environment
and Human Security

UNU-EHS Görresstr. 15 D-53113 Bonn

Bonn, 26 September 2005

Invitation for an Open Lecture

It is our great pleasure to present Professor Dr. Bharat H. Desai, from Jawaharlal Nehru Chair in International Environmental Law at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi who will be delivering an open lecture at the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) entitled

**Whither UNEP?
Reflections on the Need for a Global
Environmental Authority**
Professor Dr. Bharat H. Desai; Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi, India

**26 October 2005
4 p.m.
on the premises of UNU-EHS
Görresstr. 15, Bundeshaus
(Eingang I/Entrance I)
53113 Bonn
Room A 217**

Abstract:

In recent years, intergovernmental deliberations have sought to grapple with the debate on international environmental governance (IEG). Though it is not 'UNEP-centric', the debate has somehow got narrowed down to the "future governance of United Nations Environment Programme". Various suggestions have been put forward by states and scholars on the nomenclature of the new organization, ranging from an international (world) environmental organization to a world environment and development organization to United Nations Environment Protection Organization. It appears that the primary purpose of such a functional entity would be to enhance UNEP's status and authority. Thus, any idea of future architecture of governance structure would need to comprise UNEP at its core. At the minimum level, such an institutional structure could result in enhancement of UNEP's status and recognition of its role as a global environmental authority. In any such determination of future 'form' of UNEP would need to follow agreement on the 'content' and not vice versa. It would be ideal if the UN General Assembly seriously reviewed the requirements for a "greatly strengthened institutional structure for international environmental governance", as called for by the first meeting of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF). It would be appropriate if this issue is considered at the forthcoming 60th Session of the General Assembly and an appropriate mandate is given to an intergovernmental body for the purpose.

PROFESSOR DR. BHARAT H. DESAI

Professor Bharat H. Desai holds the prestigious **Jawaharlal Nehru Chair in International Environmental Law** at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. He was formerly Director and Head of the Centre for Environmental Law, WWF-India (1997-99). As a Humboldt Fellow (1998-99, May-July 2000, May 2001, June-July 2003, June 2005), he worked at the University of Bonn on the treatise ***Institutionalizing International Environmental Law*** (New York: Transnational Publishers, 2004). Main areas of his current research work include 'International Environmental Governance', 'Legal Status of the Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements', centralized legalization on sectoral environmental issues as well as 'synergy and inter-linkages' concerning MEAs.

A revised and updated version of Professor Desai's seminar at the Legal Department of the World Bank, Washington D.C., on "Revitalizing International Environmental Institutions: The UN Task Force Report and Beyond" (published in the Indian Journal of International Law, vol.40, no.3, 2000, pp.455-504), was shortlisted and circulated [[Doc.UNEP/IGM/1/INF/2 of 5 April 2001] at the First Meeting [New York, 18 April 2001] of the UNEP constituted ***Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers on International Environmental Governance***. The Yearbook of International Environmental Law (Oxford: OUP), of which he is one of the Associate Editors, has published his significant work on "Mapping the Future of International Environmental Governance" (YIEL, vol.13, 2002), analysing the recent intergovernmental deliberations at the Johannesburg Summit and future prospects. It was shortlisted for the ***Global Ministerial Environment Forum/ VIII Special Session of UNEP Governing Council*** (South Korea, March 2004).

Prof. Desai is engaged in promoting the teaching of International Environmental Law as well as 'Regional Capacity Building in Environmental law' in the SAARC Region. At the domestic level, apart from his basic work on Environmental Law in India, he is being consulted by the Indian Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of External Affairs. Prof. Desai has also been inducted as a member of the official Indian Delegation to various intergovernmental meetings. He has written extensively in the fields of International Law, International Environmental Law, International Environmental Institutions, Environmental Law in South Asia and Environmental Law in India.

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All Are Welcome

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Please use the attached reply form if you wish to attend!

For further inquiries please contact:
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Reply Form for Open Lecture

Please return by fax +49-228-422 855 99
or mail to roberts@ehs.unu.edu
not later than 15 October 2005

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Jawaharlal Nehru University
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Name: _____

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- I would like to attend.
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- I cannot attend.
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