



SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

INSIGHT

TALKS ON SCIENCE, POLICY AND THE HUMANITIES FOR THE ROCKEFELLER CAMPUS

Jeffrey D. Sachs, Ph.D.

Director, The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development and Professor of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University; Cofounder and President, Millennium Promise Alliance

Mobilizing Science for Sustainable Development

To an important extent, science must be mobilized to solve problems of sustainable development. The complex national and global innovation system that links universities, the public and corporate research and development facilities is biased toward: one, problems with an expected commercial application; two, problems with defense application; or three, problems deemed to be important by the political system, such as those involving national security (e.g., bioterrorism), agriculture and medicine. The specific challenges facing the world's poor (such as tropical infectious diseases, tropical food systems and ecological problems and climate change in tropical ecosystems) and those related to the global commons (such as the crises of the global carbon, hydrological, nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, or the massive loss of biodiversity in oceans and rain forests) tend to be chronically underfunded and under-researched. The social returns to investments in science in those areas are especially high, in view of these chronic under-investments. Dr. Sachs will describe several areas of promising scientific and technological discovery and application for sustainable development, and some models for scaling up the relevant scientific inquiry.

For more than 20 years Dr. Sachs has been in the forefront of the challenges of economic development, poverty alleviation and enlightened globalization, promoting policies to help all parts of the world benefit from expanding economic opportunities and well-being. In addition to his research and teaching at Columbia University, he is special adviser to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002 to 2006, he was director of the UN Millennium Project and special adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease and hunger by the year 2015. He is also president and cofounder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty. Dr. Sachs is the author of hundreds of scholarly articles and many books, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* and *The End of Poverty*.

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For further information, contact Gloria Phipps, Communications and Public Affairs, 212-327-8967.