



## **Towards Planetary Health**

How to build resilience, connect people, and inspire action for a sustainable future?

What is planetary health? Why should leaders care about it? How do we transform a global idea into a local reality?

In the evening of November 6, 2019, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) will convene a high-level panel to celebrate the inaugural Klaus Töpfer Sustainability Fellowship. The event also commemorates the legacy of IASS Founding Director Klaus Töpfer, who embodies the unique combination of science, politics and the non-profit sector required to realise the vision of the IASS. With its Klaus Töpfer Sustainability Fellowship, the IASS wants to honour and support individuals who are committed to sustainable development and build bridges between science, politics and society.

The first Klaus Töpfer Sustainability Fellowship has been recently awarded to Dr. Nicole de Paula, a Brazilian political scientist working across disciplines to promote a greater integration of the environment-health nexus.

It is hard to imagine how truly healthy people can live on a sick planet. To address the growing threat that environmental degradation poses to public health, the event is a unique opportunity to exchange about the innovative and growing field of Planetary Health, meaning "the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which it depends." This definition emerged after the 2015 publication "Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health," urging for more integrative health policies by taking into account the impact of humans into natural ecosystems. The event on November 6 focuses on the challenges for human health in a changing environment, affected by unprecedented degradation of nature, including the emerging climate crisis. It explores promising solutions for scaling up action for a healthier future, both for people and for the planet.

Recalling the potential of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the event will showcase environmental trends that are putting human health at risk, explaining why the holistic approach of Planetary Health is a promising avenue for driving action towards a cleaner and healthier future in times of a climate crisis. Discussions will build on the experience of high-level leaders to discuss how planetary health can be promoted in times of adverse political contexts marked by the rise of populist and nationalist feelings, notably in times when international cooperation is most needed.

### **Schedule:**

17:30 Registration  
18:00 Speeches and Debate  
19:30 Reception



### **Welcoming remarks**

Prof. Dr. Ortwin Renn, Managing Scientific Director,  
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Former Federal Minister,  
Founding Director of Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS),  
Founder of TMG Think Tank for Sustainability

### **Keynote: "Planetary Health - An Agenda for Smart Nations"**

Dr. Nicole de Paula, Klaus Töpfer Sustainability Fellow,  
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

### **Round table**

Prof. Dr. Ortwin Renn, Managing Scientific Director,  
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

- Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Former Federal Minister, Founding Director of Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Founder of TMG Think Tank for Sustainability
- Dr. Nicole de Paula, Inaugural Klaus Töpfer Sustainability Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and former Executive Director of Global Health Asia Institute (GHAi)
- Prof. Dr. Sabine Gabrysch, Professor for Climate Change and Health at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Department Head at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- Prof. Dr. Mark Lawrence, Scientific Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Key questions for discussion:

1. From your experience, what would be the most relevant **recommendations** for scientists, practitioners and regular citizens interested in promoting a cleaner and healthier planet?
2. How can climate change be a threat to public health?
3. What are the main **challenges** to promote Planetary Health, meaning the nexus between environment and health policies?
4. What are the **best practices** around science-policy interface that could contribute to better implementation of global targets, notably the UN Sustainable Development Goals, at the regional and local levels?
5. How can the growing community of practice around the theme of planetary health promote **actionable solutions**?