

# A New Climate Change Accord: Legal Character and Commitments

Thursday, April 23, 2009  
9:00 am - 12: 30 pm

The Embassy of Sweden in collaboration with the Stockholm Environmental Law and Policy Centre, at Stockholm University, and The George Washington University Law School cordially invite you to a seminar on "A New Climate Change Accord: Legal Character and Commitments," with a prior breakfast, at House of Sweden.

The global climate change negotiations are in a critical phase. The ambition is to reach a new agreement at the UN Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, during the Swedish presidency of the EU. Will it be possible? Are the positions of the EU and the USA too diverse?

The program will focus on two of the more critical and difficult legal issues in the ongoing negotiations:

- What character should be given to the accord? One single treaty text, like the Kyoto Protocol, or a looser package of texts bound together by a common vision and agreed within a common framework?
- How should the commitments be defined in light of the differentiated responsibilities of the parties? Should the division between industrialised states and developing states be maintained?

## Speakers:

Susan Biniarz, Deputy Legal Adviser at the US State Department

Artur Runge-Metzger, Head of Int'l Climate Change Negotiations Unit, European Commission

Jonas Ebbesson, Professor, Faculty of Law, Stockholm University

David Freestone, Professor, The George Washington University Law School

Annie Petsonk, International Counsel, Environment Defense Fund

Moderator: Angus Friday, World Bank Consultant, former chair of AOSIS

RSVP by April 17, 2009 to:  
[anna.lundgren@juridicum.su.se](mailto:anna.lundgren@juridicum.su.se)

House of Sweden  
2900 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

