



**You are cordially invited to join us on our
30th year Anniversary Celebration**

13 August 2019

***GRID-Arendal and the Global Environmental Agenda:
the next 30 years ahead***

Venue: Gamle Rådhus, Rådhusgaten 10, 4836 Arendal

Time: 15:00-16:45

GRID-Arendal has influenced the global debate for key environmental issues of our time. Over 30 years GRID-Arendal has worked with UN Environment and Norwegian government ministries and many others to produce cutting-edge reports, maps and graphics that transform the world's policies and perceptions of the environment. GRID-Arendal's work has had an extraordinary scope, bringing to light issues such as: the environmental crime crisis, climate change impacts on small island developing states, Arctic environment and capacity building in northern communities, assisting developing countries to submit seabed territory claims under the UN Law of the Sea, coral bleaching, "blue carbon" in the global carbon cycle, transboundary issues in African rivers, and most recently marine litter, waste and circular economy solutions. Being close to, but not limited by UN structures when supporting UN Environment allows GRID-Arendal to be both nimble and impactful, addressing complex emerging environmental issues by conveying the highest quality scientific information to decision makers.

A major, tangible outcome of this work has been the adoption of resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), urging nations to take action to avoid and curb harm to the environment. In many cases, UNEA resolutions have GRID-Arendal as a vital part of their DNA, as they are constructed from work completed through the UN Environment and GRID-Arendal partnership. The government of Norway plays a crucial role by supporting the partnership between UN Environment and GRID-Arendal not only financially but also sponsoring UNEA resolutions and side events at UNEA that bring the resulting information to impact. Partly in recognition of this demonstrated leadership, Norway's Minister for Climate and the Environment, Ola Elvestuen, has been elected as President of UNEA-5 in 2021. In summary, the tripartite partnership of UN Environment, the

government of Norway and GRID-Arendal has led to tremendous impact for the global environment.

What then, does the future hold? Delegates at UNEA-4 acknowledged mounting evidence that the Earth is increasingly polluted, rapidly warming and dangerously depleted. We are making insufficient progress in advancing the SDGs. Bold, urgent actions, and laws are needed to bring teeth to UNEA resolutions. Creative, innovative, and exciting initiatives must inspire changes in consumption and production, and engage businesses, individuals, groups, communities, and nations to a meaningful commitment for change. GRID-Arendal is proud to bring together creative, diverse, and experienced experts, policy makers, and community builders to communicate in ways that inspires and speeds change.

Programme

Opening 15:00 - 15:30

Welcome Remarks

Ms. Ingeborg Mørk-Knutsen

Deputy Director General
Department for Nature Management
Ministry of Climate and Environment

GRID-Arendal: Celebrating 30 years
(a video presentation)

Introduction: *Global linkages –
a graphic look at the changing
Arctic* exhibition

Ms. Hanna Lønning Gjerdi

Project Officer, GRID-Arendal

Refreshments 15:30 - 15:45

Seminar and panel discussion 15:45 - 16:45

GRID-Arendal and the Global Environmental Agenda: the next 30 years ahead

Opening Remarks

Mr. Svein Tveitdal

former Managing Director, GRID
Arendal, and former Division Director,
UN Environment

Keynote speakers:

Dr. Jian Liu

Chief Scientist, UN Environment

Mr. Aksel Jakobsen
State Secretary, Ministry of
International Development of Norway

Mr. Ola Elvestuen
Minister of Climate and Environment of
Norway

Dr. Jan-Gunnar Winther
Chair, GRID-Arendal Board

Panel discussion (in Norwegian)

Mr. Svein Tveitdal, Moderator

The discussion will focus on the “future we want”, how UN Environment and Norway can build on the independence, influence and impact that GRID-Arendal has achieved, and the opportunities this tri-party cooperation can seize in the near future.

Panellists: **Mr. Ola Elvestuen**, Minister of Climate and Environment
Mr. Aksel Jakobsen, State Secretary, Ministry of International
Development of Norway
Ms. Marte Næss Thomassen, AUF I Agder
Ms. Amalie Kollstrand, Agder Unge Høyre
Ms. Anja Ninasdotter Abusland, Senterungdommen
Mr. Markus Bjørkløf-Terjesen, Arendal & omegn Rød
Ungdom
Ms. Oda Sofie Pettersen, Miljøpartiet De Grønne Agder
Mr. Bendik Hagen, Agder KrFU