

H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen

President of the Republic of Finland

“Promoting sustainable development through inclusive green growth”

Tuesday 15th March 2011

Ms Tarja Halonen is the 11th President of Finland and the first woman to be elected President. She acceded to office on 1st March 2000 and was re-elected in 2006. President Halonen is currently the co-chair of the High Level Panel of Global Sustainability established by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 9th August 2010.

The High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP) brings together renowned world figures to formulate a new blueprint for a sustainable future on a planet under increasing stress resulting from human activities.

Recognizing that climate change, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, the destruction of ecosystems and shifting demographic and consumption patterns require bold new approaches to ensure that the world can meet the Millennium Development Goals and other development objectives, the Panel seeks to explore approaches for building a low-carbon, green and resilient economy that can eradicate poverty and ensure a dignified life for all.

The GSP will issue its final report by the end of 2011. Its inputs will feed into inter-governmental processes, including preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio 2012), and the annual meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Panel is supported by a small secretariat within the Secretary-General’s office in New York.