

## Walls & The Tiger



### Sushma Kallam

Sushma Kallam descends from a long line of Indian farmers in villages close to the Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh state. During her childhood she lived for a year in the peaceful village dwelling of her grandparents, and has since returned there frequently. After earning an engineering degree in India she came to the US in 2001 to work. She became an independent IT consultant specializing in supply-chain management – optimizing incoming and outgoing raw materials and manufactured goods and services for international markets. During this time, she began to understand the devastating impacts certain development policies have had on rural life throughout the world.



### Maryam Niamir-Fuller

Maryam Niamir-Fuller brings to UNEP 27 years of experience in the technical areas of sustainable rural development and environmental management in Africa, West Asia, Asia and Latin America, including work with USID, several UN Agencies and international NGOs. She also has seven years of experience with the GEF, and since 2003, as Principal Technical Advisor for UNDP's GEF Unit in the Focal Area of Land Degradation, and Head of the Sustainable Land Management Team. She has authored technical publications, is an accomplished public speaker as well as a member of several scientific communities. She is currently the Special Advisor on SDGs and Post 2015 to the Executive Director of UNEP. She has a Master's Degree in Regional Planning and a PhD in Rangeland Management and Soil Conservation.



### Carlos Jimenez

Carlos Jimenez is a Desk Officer for Spain and Andorra at the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Mr. Jimenez started his career at the United Nations in 1984 and has since worked at UN offices in New York, Madrid and Geneva. He studied journalism at the School of Communications of American University in Washington and was a correspondent at EFE, Spanish News Agency.

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## Sustainable Development Goals

An unprecedented series of decisions by governments since the 2012 Rio+20 conference achieved a tangible progress towards a universal commitment to achieve sustainable development. In September 2015, world leaders are expected to agree on a historic and far-reaching agenda for the next 15 years. United Nations Secretary-General's synthesis report, *The Road to Dignity by 2030*, presents a vision for UN Member States in the negotiations leading up to the United Nations Special Summit on Sustainable Development, which will adopt the post-2015 development agenda.

Within the last two years, the institutional framework for sustainable development has seen some remarkable changes, including establishing the High-Level Political Forum to succeed the Commission on Sustainable Development; enhancing the mandate of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to also address environmental sustainability; and strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme with, among others, the establishment of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). In addition, the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) through a global and engaging multi-stakeholder consultative process, proposed a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets, that drew inspiration from the 2012 Rio+20 Conference outcome and the Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, among others.

The General Assembly in September 2014 resolved that the SDGs proposed by the OWG will be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post2015 agenda. The OWG produced a comprehensive package of 17 SDGs and their embedded targets, reflecting the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. The SDGs are based on three principles: 1) leaving no-one behind (in terms of poverty alleviation and development); 2) ensuring equity and dignity for all; 3) achieving prosperity within the Earth's safe and restored operating space.

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