



Drs. **Kitty van der Heijden** is the Vice President of the World Resources Institute (WRI), and Director for WRI Europe & Africa. She brings a distinguished diplomatic career with notable accomplishments in sustainable development and humanitarian aid to the global research organization.

Kitty represents WRI's vision and strategy in Europe and Africa and is responsible for managing the offices in The Hague and Addis Ababa, where she facilitates engagement with Governments, businesses, and institutions. She works in close collaboration with WRI's President and Executive Team, its Program and Center Directors, and its Country Directors in India, Brazil and China. Kitty leads WRI's engagement in the post 2015 Development Agenda, and also embraces work on the international climate regime; the role of the private sector in development; global indicators on resource productivity and efficiency; and inequality.

An economist by training (Erasmus University Rotterdam), with hands-on experience in sustainable development, her career has been guided by a motivation to ensure dignified living conditions for all of human society within planetary boundaries. Prior to joining WRI, Kitty was the Ambassador for Sustainable Development and Director of the Department for Climate, Energy, Environment and Water in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. She was responsible for policy development on environmental

global public goods and managing the sizeable aid budget of the Department.

She led the Netherlands delegation to the Rio+20 summit and was appointed the Netherlands representative on the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Prior to her secondment to the UN in Hanoi, Vietnam, where she managed the 'One UN' pilot to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of UN field operations. Kitty also represented her government in a multitude of UN fora in New York.

In 2013, she was elected the 3rd best civil servant of the Netherlands, and was awarded a national Ribbon of Honor for her efforts to raise public awareness on the challenges and opportunities of a truly sustainable development pathway. In 2014, she was elected as "Influencer of the Year" among civil servants, and is consistently listed within the top 20th in the top 100 most influential people in the Netherlands dealing with sustainability.