

## **HE DR GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND**

Former Prime Minister of Norway and Member of the UN Secretary General's Global Sustainability Panel, Norway

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Born in Oslo, Norway, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland spent 10 years as a physician and scientist in the Norwegian public health system. In 1965 she joined the Ministry of Health where she worked on children's health issues. In 1974, Dr Brundtland was offered the job of Minister of the Environment. In

1981, she was appointed Prime Minister for the first time. Gro Harlem Brundtland was the youngest person and the first woman ever to hold the office of Prime Minister in Norway. With two other periods as Prime Minister from 1986-1989 and 1990-1996, Dr Brundtland was Head of Government for more than 10 years. In 1983 the then United Nations Secretary-General invited her to establish and chair the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), best known for developing the broad political concept of sustainable development. The Commission's recommendations led to the Earth Summit - the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Dr Brundtland stepped down as Prime Minister in October 1996 and went on to become Director-General of the World Health Organisation from July 1998 to July 2003. From 2007 through 2009 she was the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change. Dr Brundtland serves on the board of the United Nations Foundation and she is a member of The Elders. Dr Brundtland is a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability since its launch in August 2010.