PIETER VAN EECHE

Pieter Van Eecke is a Belgian filmmaker who lives and works in South America. After his philosophy studies and his training as a sculptor, he decided to work for a social development organisation. He ended up in Haiti in 2006, where he started what he describes as his “autodidactic directing career”. His 2011 documentary ‘Goudougoudou’ covered the Haitian earthquake and was screened at several film festivals.

VICTOR DRIES

Victor Dries is an environmental advisor to the Cabinet of Liesbeth Homans and vice-president of the Flemish government. He mainly works on diverse policy themes surrounding the Environment, Spatial Planning and Climate. Previous to this, he worked for OVAM, a Belgian organisation responsible for waste management, working on sustainable soil, waste and material policy. Victor Dries is a trained civil bio-engineer.

THIERRY LUCAS

Thierry Lucas is currently coordinating the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management subprogramme at the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Regional Office for Europe. Mr Lucas has over 19 years of technical and management experience with the UN, including expertise in Africa and Asia. Before working for UNEP, Mr. Lucas was the project manager of an adolescent health programme in Asia of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) from 2003 to 2007. He holds a degree in Engineering.

Cristina Gallach is the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information since 1 February 2015. She has a wealth of experience in communications, information, public diplomacy, international affairs and security policy, combined with transformational leadership and hands-on management expertise. She is also an experienced newspaper, radio and television journalist.

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On 5 October 2016, the threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved. It entered into force on 4 November 2016.

The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by making countries work to limit the global temperature increase this century to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. Appropriate financial flows and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Agreement also provides for enhanced transparency of action and support through a more robust transparency framework.

Global momentum for the Paris Agreement to enter into force in 2016 has been remarkable. What once seemed unthinkable is now unstoppable. Strong international support for the Paris Agreement entering into force is testament to the urgency for action, and reflects the consensus of governments that robust global cooperation is essential to meet the climate challenge.

— Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon.