The Millennium Institute (MI) is devoted to promoting more sustainable development in countries around the world. To help countries better understand how to achieve these goals, it has developed a system dynamic tool, the Threshold 21 Model, to integrate the relations among the economy, society, and environment into a single, coherent framework. This is a highly transparent model that generates long-term scenarios to help better understand the positive and negative linkages across the whole economic-social-environmental framework that result from different policies over the longer term, so decision-makers can develop more sustainable strategies. It has been applied in over 30 countries and is easy to maintain by the local experts trained in its use. UNDP has supported its application in many of these countries, including in promoting climate change adaptation in African countries working with the African Adaptation Program. The model was used by UNEP in their Green Economy Report to illustrate how shifting to “green” investments would protect the environment while strengthening the economy and creating more jobs than continuing normal policies. UNEP is now promoting the use of the model in a number of countries to help them develop the specific policies that would lead them to “greener” growth. The model will be demonstrated to illustrate how it can help achieve more sustainable policies, and there will be opportunities to discuss the links among sectors.

John D. Shilling earned his Ph.D. in Economics from MIT, and an A.B. in Philosophy and Economics from Stanford University. He taught at Boston College, advised the Planning Ministry of Morocco, and then worked at the World Bank for nearly 30 years. He played a key role the Bank’s efforts in country modeling, sustainable development, macroeconomic policy analysis, environmental sustainability, capital flows, and financial markets, especially in Africa and Asia. He laid the basis for a new Environment Strategy and the World Development Report on sustainable development before retiring. Now he consults with NGOs (including WWF and CI), the World Bank, the UN, and others on environmental economic issues. He played a key role in incorporating the Millennium Institute Threshold 21 model in the UNEP Green Economy Report. He has served on the Boards of several major Institutions and NGOs focused on environmental sustainability. He has served 5 years as Chairman of the Millennium Institute and is now a regular board member.